

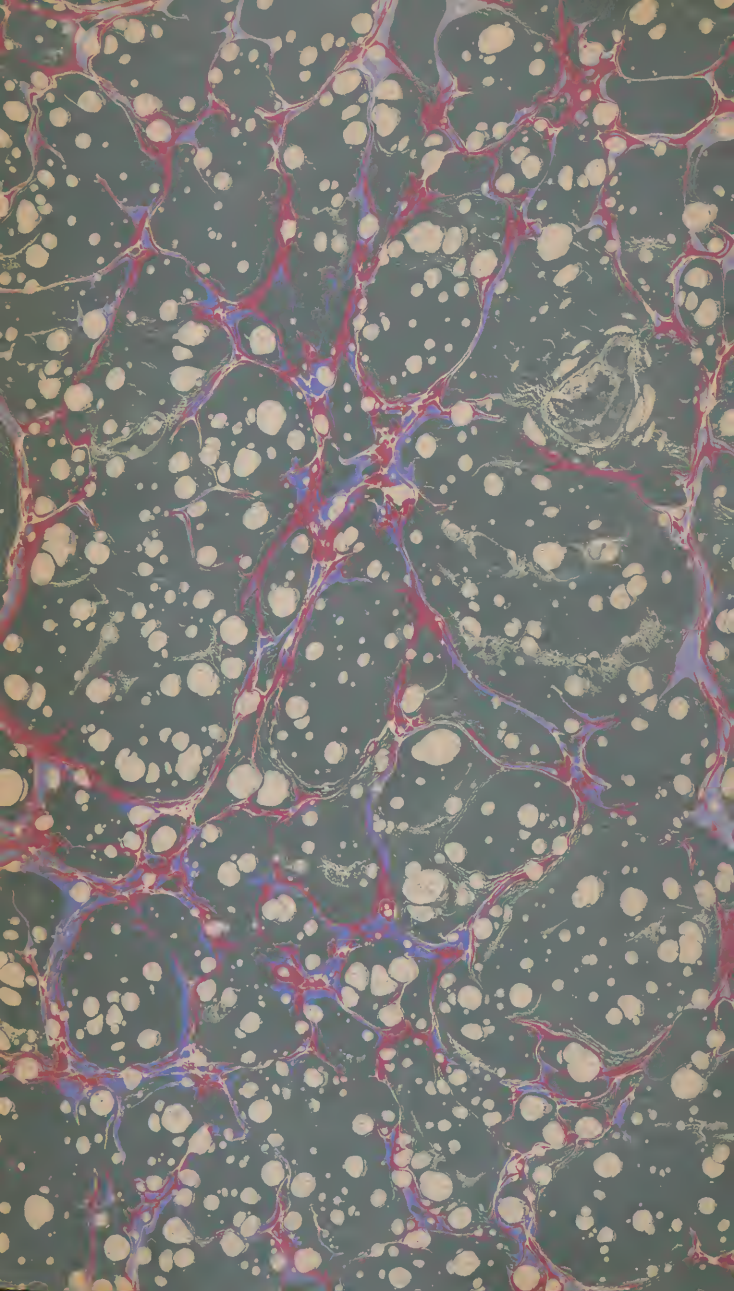
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THE
ATTILA
OF THE
GOUT.

*The Second Edition, with large Additions,
both of Matter and Proofs of Cures per-
form'd.*

By JOHN MARTEN, Surgeon.

*Non Titulus, non Eloquentia, non Linguarum peri-
tia, nec Multorum Librorum lectio in Medico
consideranda, sed summa Rerum ac Mysteriorum
cognitio, qua una facile aliorum omnium
vices agit. Paracels.*

L O N D O N,

Printed for the Author, and Sold by N. Crouch at
at the Bell in the Poultry; M. Atkins at the Golden-
Ball near the West-end of St. Paul's Church-yard; P.
Varenne at the Seneca's Head near Somerset-House in
the Strand; C. King at the Judge's Head in Westminster-
hall; J. Ified at the Golden-ball against St. Dunstan's
Church, Fleet-street, and A. Bettesworth at the Red-
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The P R E F A C E.

IT is not six Months since I first publish'd a Treatise of the Gout, and observing some time ago that but few of the Books were left unsold, I had no reason to think that it had been unacceptable to the Publick. This put me upon a Review of it, by which I found that several things for Brevity sake had been omitted and cut short, which I thought might not only be as entertaining as any of the rest, but likewise explain and elucidate what had been writ already. For this reason I have encreas'd the Bulk of it, with a full Resolution never to add any more, how many times soever it may be reprinted.

The Medicine recommended in this and the former Edition, continues to give me every Day fresh Proofs of its being a real Specifick in the Gout, and has hitherto not once fail'd of giving the promis'd Relief where it has been duely taken. Notwithstanding all which, it wants no Opposition, and I know several, who tho' they were Eye-witnesses of the unspeakable Benefit which others receiv'd from it, have yet remain'd unreasonably scrupulous, and declin'd the taking of it themselves. Their great Argument is, that the Learned say there is no such Remedy known, and that it is impossible to give a Reason how one Medicine can have such stupendious Effects upon all Constitutions. To answer this mighty Objection, Aristotle furnishes us with a very remarkable Saying. *Ubi Res constat, si opinio adversetur, rei quærenda est Ratio, non res ignoranda.* 'When a thing is Fact, if it thwarts a receiv'd Opinion, we must endeavour to find out a Reason for it, but not disown the Thing it self.

But I know very well, that tho' the Efficacy of the Medicine, should as plainly appear as the Sun when it shines, does at Noon-day, as long as it brings neither Profit nor Credit to Physicians or Apothecaries, but rather the

The P R E F A C E.

contrary, it is in vain to expect that they should look on tamely and not speak against it; or that a reasonable Number of Cures should convince the World of the real Value of a new Remedy without a long continuance of Success; more especially in such a Distemper as the Gout, the Curing of which is so little credited, that even the bare mentioning of doing it, is made a Jest of by most.

It is reported of a certain Country in Europe, that the politer sort of People are generally Atheists; and the chief Reason alledg'd for it, is the stupid Bigotry of the Vulgar. Dum vitant stulti vitia in contraria currunt. 'Fools (says Horace) know not how to avoid one Excess without running into another. As to things sacred, there is no room I hope for such Complaints amongst us; but in other, especially Physical, Matters, we are as apt to run into Extreame, as any Spaniard of 'em all. The ordinary People, and those of mean Capacities in England, will give Ear to every nonsensical old Womans Story, without consulting either Reason or Probability, and entirely confide in the most impudent Promises of every boasting Quack, tho' they are never so contradictory to themselves. This excess of Good-nature, and easiness of Faith, being deservedly ridicul'd by all the sensible part of the World, the Men of Mode, and those that would be valu'd for their Parts, that they may seem to be as remote as is possible from the stupid Simplicity of the Vulgar, are resolv'd to admit of nothing Right or Wrong, that has not the Sanction of University Learning, and to reject the best Remedies in the World, if they want the assent of Graduate Physicians, tho' the Virtues of them should be attested by a Cloud of unquestionable living Witnesses.

If Men would lay by all Prejudice, and not judge by the specious Names and fair outside of Things, but look into the Reality, and weigh the intrinsick worth of 'em; I am persuaded that many sprightly People would find, as just a Cause for Ridicule in their own Unbelief, which they are proud of, as there is in the silly Credulity of the Ignorant, which they laugh at.

Those

THE PREFACE.

Those that are counted the most Candid and Learned among Physicians, have confess'd, that they knew nothing effectual in the Gout. All what can be inferr'd from hence is, that if Physicians know no more than the ordinary Methods which they have learn'd from their Predecessors, it is very insignificant to send for 'em in this Distemper; but it is far from proving that such a Remedy can never be found out at all, or that he who shall discover it must first have his Degree from the University. Nulla est Gens tam Barbara (says the learned Dr. Ent) quæ non aut fortuito aut inevitabili quadam necessitate coacta aliquid in usum communem ad invenerit quod Nationes alias humaniores latuit. There is no People so Savage but that either accidentally or forc'd by some inevitable Necessity they may find out something for the common good of Mankind that was hid from other more civiliz'd Nations. What is here said of a whole People, tho' the most unpolish'd as to Invention, may with more Justice be applied to single Persons, not altogether so little qualify'd for it.

I have spent the greatest part of my Life in diving into the Nature of a stubborn and often deceitful Distemper, the understanding of which requires as much Judgment and Attention as any; and whoever has consulted the Works of the most able Practitioners and skilful Chymists, cannot be ignorant, that the greatest Artists in the Search after efficacious Remedies they wanted, have been often baffled in their most rational as well as industrious Attempts, when at the same time, by chance, they met with more noble ones tho' infinitely differing from those they look'd for. Then why is it impossible that I should have the same good Fortune? Nay, why is it improbable of me more than others, unexpectedly to have stumbled on a Medicine I had no reason to hope for? Considering the numerous Experiments I must in all likelihood have made both on Simples and Compounds, to suit the multifarious difficult Cases, which during a large, and (I may without boasting say) successful Practice of many Years, could,

not

The P R E F A C E.

not but occur in the Cure of a Disease, that for Violence as well as multitude of Symptoms is inferiour to none, and in variety of Shapes exceeds all others.

I live (I thank God) in Credit and Affluence, and if I had not found out such a Medicine, what should move me by putting a sham upon the World for a short time, to expose myself to the Ridicule and Scorn of it : The Practise I spoke of, and which has been very gainful to me for many Years, tho' I can live without it, decreases not, and would certainly encrease, was I to follow it with the same Application as formerly : And that it could not have been a trifling one, must be own'd even by those that shall refuse to judge otherwise than from the Event : For a Business that gives a Man an Opportunity of saving enough to live without it, tho' he allows himself and Family the elegant Comforts of Life, and keeps a Coach, as I have done almost these seven Years ; a Business I say that has enabled a Man to do all this, could not either in Physick or Surgery be call'd inconsiderable.

Those that boast of having found the Philosopher's Stone, are generally Beggars as well as Cheats, and most Men esteeming it as impossible to cure the Gout as to make Gold, many, who live far off, and are unacquainted with my Circumstances will be apt to imagine that Indigence and a broken Fortune made me pretend to seeming Impossibleities : Which is the reason, that, begging the Reader's Pardon, I have troubled him with what no Man of Sense would otherwise be so vain, or rather so silly as to mention of himself.

The Name of Physician is a Dignity I own superior to that of Surgeon, tho' both of them profess but different Branches of the same Art ; and Surgeons as well as Physicians have always been as they are still, even by Act of Parliament, counted Judges of inward Medicines ; and I question whether we have many Physicians now alive, that will obtain the same Veneration from late Posterity, as is, and always will be paid to the
Names

The P R E F A C E.

Names of Ingrassias, Vesalius, Fallopius, Carcanus, Aquapendens, Spigelius, Marchettis, Severinus, Paræus, Chalmetæus, Pigræus, Guilleman, Hildanus, and others, whose chief Practice was Surgery. I am not so vain as to compare my self to those famous Men; I boast of no great Learning, but as I am well satisfied that many of my Profession have successfully studied the Body of Man, and the Virtues of Simples, I think it unreasonable a noble Medicine should be despis'd; because invented by a Surgeon. A Physician, says Hippocrates, in his Book de Præceptionibus, ought not to be ashamed to inform himself tho' by the meanest Person of Remedies confirm'd by Experience: And in his Book de Arte, he tells us, That tho' some made it their Business to decry others, and shew a vain Ostentation of their own Learning, they would, in his Opinion, shew more Wit in finding out Things useful, which is Physick, and perfecting what is not yet so, than to lay themselves out in speculative Discourses.

The Words Learning and Method, how charmingly soever they may sound, do not always cure Diseases, as may be seen in those remarkable Instances that are left us by Huartius, of two Physicians, of which the one was not only a Prodigy of Learning, but likewise endued with so much Eloquence, that those that heard him, thought he could not only cure the Sick, but likewise raise the Dead: Yet as to his Patients, all that came near him were presently thrown into imminent Danger, and few trusted themselves in his Hands that did not with their own Lives expiate the vain Wisdom of their Physician, insomuch, that at last, he was forc'd to take Sanctuary in a Convent. The other was the great Argenterius, of whom very learned Authors testify, that in reducing the Art of Physick to a more perfect Method, he had exceeded even Galen himself; yet, in his Practice he was so unfortunate, that almost every Body that came under his Cure, was either kill'd out-right, or thrown

The P R E F A C E, &c.

into some incurable Disease or other; till the Citizens where he lived were so terrify'd, that no Body was allow'd to make use of him any more. Whence 'tis plain, that Sola Remedia sanant, the only thing that Cures is the Remedies.

I could say much more upon this Subject, but having made the Head already too big for the little Body, I shall beg the Reader's Pardon for trespassing so long upon his Patience, and break off with this Confidence, that no judicious Man can think it either Honour or Honesty in Physicians, to dispise and diswade their Patients from an effectual Remedy, on which they can fix no other Disgrace, than that the Author of it has had no University Education to boast of; being well assur'd that in the Opinion of all impartial Judges, such Graduates, whilst they must own themselves uncapable of giving the least Relief in the Gout, will deserve the same Language, with which they of old reprov'd the haughty Logicians; viz. That they were come from the University full of Pride, and void of useful Knowledge. Fili ab Academia venis fastum Spiras ex inani scrinio ex indocto pectore.

From my House on the Left-hand beyond the Chapel
in Hatton-Garden, London, Aug. 20. 1713.

The C O N T E N T S.

| | |
|--|-------|
| C hap. I. Of the various Species of the Gout, &c. | p. 1 |
| Chap. II. Of the Vanity of Hypotheses. | p. 4 |
| Chap. III. Of the Symptoms of the Gout. | p. 13 |
| Chap. IV. Of the Causes of the Gout. | p. 22 |
| Chap. V. Of the Cure of the Gout. | p. 31 |
| Chap. VI. Of curing the Gout by the Moxa. | p. 46 |
| Chap. VII. Of Specificks. | p. 52 |
| Chap. VIII. Instances of Cures perform'd. | p. 65 |
| Chap. IX. Reasons à Posteriori. | p. 81 |
| Chap. X. The Conclusion. | p. 94 |

CHAP,

C H A P. I.

Of the various Species of the Gout, &c.

AMONG all the Diseases that infest our Humane Bodies, there is not one known hitherto, that more deservedly is called *Opprobrium Medicorum*, the Reproach of Physicians, than the Gout.

The *English* Word which is the same with the *French* has its Origin from *Gutta*, (*ex defluxu guttatim facto*) a barbarous *Latin* Translation of the *Greek Arthritis*, or articular Disease, which is the general Name for all the different Species of Joint-Pains; in the various Denominations of which the Learned have been as *Copious* as they have been *Defective* in writing any thing materially as to the *Cure* of them.

In the Feet, the Distemper is call'd *Podagra*; in the Knees, *Gonagra*; in the Hips, *Ischiatica*; in the Hands, *Chiragra*; and in the Shoulders, *Homogra*. These are the Parts most obnoxious to the Disease, and consequently the Names already mention'd are every where obvious in Medical Authors. But as these *Arthritick* Pains, not being confin'd to their usual Stations, have now and then, tho' rarely, remov'd the Scene of Affliction to other Places, your *Extraordinary* Physicians, not to be behind-hand with the Distemper, have still vary'd the Name, according to the Difference of the Part it has affected.

In the *Vertebra* of the Neck, it is term'd *Trachelagra*; in the Joint of the Collar-bones, *Cleisagra*; in the *Spina Dorsi*, or Back-bone, *Rachisagra*; in the Ankle, *Talia*, or *Talla*; and when it seizes the Joint

of the Jaw, it must be stiled *Siagonagra*; in the Joint of the Elbow, it is call'd *Pechiagra*; and in the Teeth, tho' there is no Articulation there, *Odontalgia* by *Strobelbergerus*, who will have the Tooth-ach to be a kind of *Gout*. Besides the Parts I have nam'd, *Etmuller* has observ'd the same *Arthritick* Pains, in one half of the *Nose*; as also in the *Sternum* which compréhends the Bones and Cartilages of the Breast, the only two Places I could ever meet with, where the *Gout* had not a particular Name.

When Men with so much Nicety, give new Names to every step and motion of a Distemper, who would think otherwise, but that by long Experience in Curing of it, they had found an essential Difference between the several Species, and had particular Remedies ready for every one of them? Yet far from this, Physicians in general agree, that all the above-mention'd Species require the same Method of Cure; and whoever consults the most noted among them, will find, that concerning the internal and immediate *Cause* as well as *Cure* of this Disease, nothing has been hitherto writ with any certainty; that very few have given us a better History of it than every Patient can furnish us with; and in short, that in treating of the *Gout*, none have observ'd any Exactness but in the most immaterial Part, only fit for trifling Grammarians to meddle with.

From what I have said, the Reader may perhaps imagine, that I pretend to some new *System*, by which the *Phænomena* of this Distemper will be better solv'd than has been done hitherto; but I am so far from breaking my Head with Novelties and Speculation, that I have long ago thought, that the Time and Pains, which so many ingenious Men have bestow'd in defending and refuting the *Hypothesis* already broach'd, were thrown away to very little Purpose; and the reason of my setting forth a

Treatise

Treatise of this Nature, is wholly *Practical*. Some time ago, I met with a Medicine, that to two or three Patients afflicted with most violent Pains of the *Gout*, gave immediate Ease. Not daring to hope for such a good Fortune as all the World would esteem the Possession of such an *Arcanum*, I at first ascrib'd those Successes, either to Chance, or some unknown Accident; but since that, I have been convinc'd by so many Trials of the real worth of this excellent Medicine, that I should think myself injurious to the Publick, not to acquaint them with the *stupendious Effects* I have seen from it. I can easily foresee the little Credit this bare Assertion would meet with from most People, if I had not undeniable Proofs, and home Instances of Success to corroborate it with, neither am I ignorant of the great Difficulty the most able Physicians have had hitherto, in giving the least Ease in the Distemper I speak of. But as the same might have been said of *Quartan Agues*, before the Use of the *Jesuits Bark* was thoroughly known, so I shall give every Body leave to think what I say improbable, that will suffer himself to be convinc'd by Matter of Fact.

No Man, who has read the greatest Experimental Philosopher that ever *Europe* produc'd, I mean the Honourable *Robert Boyle*, Esq; can doubt of the Existence of *Specificks*; but before I say any more of them, or the Medicine I have hinted at, and which I think deserves that Name, I shall briefly touch on the most material Things which Practitioners have said of the *Gout*; relate some of the most noted Conjectures, and different Reasonings concerning the Causes of it, and demonstrate how little the best contriv'd *Hypothesis*, and all the witty Speculations of the Ingenious, have hitherto contributed to the *Curative* Part of this Distemper, and the real Comfort of the Afflicted. And to give the Reader

a greater Insight into the precarious Principles of Physicians, I shall premise something concerning the Vanity of *Hypotheses*. In the mean time I must desire him from this or what I shall say hereafter, not to imagine as if I any ways slighted the Knowledge of *Causes*, or thought it unnecessary to the removing of the Distempers. I have always been of Opinion, that a *sound Theory* wholly built on Observation, was the Foundation of a *safe Practice*, yet I can't help thinking, but that how long soever People may wrangle about the Explication of the *Essence and Phenomena* of a Distemper, *the true end of Physick is to cure it.*

CHAP. II.

Of the Vanity of Hypotheses.

IF the All-wise Creator, when the Earth was yet void and without Form; would have condescended in his omnipotent Commands to the rude Mass, to use such length of Time, Method, and Language as might have been fathom'd by Mortals; or else had thought fit to bestow an almost infinite Penetration on the Faculties of finite Beings; either his sacred Records, or else the Depth of our own Sagacity, might have taught us the Principles of Things: The various Ingredients, the constituent Parts of what now we call Matter, would perhaps have been laid open to our View; and humane Industry might have hoped by Study and Application, to have unlock'd the dark Womb of Causes; but so momentary were both the Voice and the Execution of his incomprehensible *FIAT*, that they can inspire us with nothing but Humility and Surprize; and so shallow the reach of our

Under-

Understanding; that whether we are pleas'd to lose our selves by launching out into Immensity of the Universe, or by poring upon the Divisibility of Matter, we meet on either side with a full view of the narrow Bounds that are set to our limited Senses.

God, it is true has endu'd us with Reason, which is that Faculty of the Soul, by which she is capable of drawing from sure Premises, Conclusions as certain, and turning to her Advantage the many Intelligences that are continually brought to her by the outward Senses: But as it is certain, that no Knowledge of Things material can be convey'd to the Soul any other way, so it is impossible, that our Reason should make just Inferences from what is beyond the reach of those Organs.

But such is the Vanity of some witty Men, that rather than search after Parable Truths, and acquiese in the real Knowledge to be attain'd to within the limits of our Senses, they'll leap the Bounds of Certainty, and, following the Dictates of a roving Fancy, prostitute their Reason to draw Conclusions from Conjectures.

These Conjectures, when they are general, and extended to the Constituent Parts and Motions of all created Beings, are call'd *Systems* of natural Philosophy. It is not to be deny'd, but that the Contrivance of them is a Task of great Difficulty and Invention; because they are to serve for all Uses, and the Explication of one *Phenomenon* of Nature, must never contradict what our Senses have discover'd of another, or clash with any one Experiment that has been made. From whence it is evident, that those who set about them, ought to have great Qualifications, and be Men of extraordinary Parts and *Genius*, as well as Knowledge and Learning. The Reward they receive, is generally made answerable to their Labour, and whoever has

but tollerably succeeded in proving the Probability of these Conjectures, (for none have yet been broach'd but what were defective in several Parts) has been handed down to Posterity with as much Fame, as if he had been one of the greatest *Generals* in the World. The Sagacious *Aristotle* has been as much talk'd of for describing every thing upon the Earth, as his Pupil *Alexander the Great*, has been for conquering of the whole. The same may be said of all great *Philosophers* and *Mathematicians*, before and after him, that contriv'd *Systems* of their own, and the Names of *Thesens*, *Themistocles*, *Camillus*, *Timoleon*, *Julius Caesar*, *Bellizarius*, *Gustavus Adolphus*, and *Turenne*, have not made more Noise in the World than those of *Pythagoras*, *Plato*, *Democritus*, *Epicurus*, *Ptolomy*, *Copernicus*, *Tycho-Brake*, and *Descartes*.

But what Use their ingenious Guesses have been of to Mankind, is a Question not easily to be answer'd; nay, many are of Opinion, that by putting Men upon *Speculation*, they have diverted them from the Steadiness of *Observation*, and consequently done more harm than good, as to the Improvement of real Knowledge. However, as long as their Invention is only employ'd to explain the Motions of the Heavens and Stars, the Meteors of the Air, the Flux and Reflux of the Sea, the Virtues of the Loadstone, and a thousand other things that are without us, their *Systems* can do us no manner of Prejudice if there were five hundred more of them; for whether the Earth remains fix'd upon its old Foundation, and the Sun goes round about it, as it used to do; or that the Sun stands still, and the Earth is whirl'd about that, with greater Celerity than Balls flie from Canons, as long as both *Hypotheses* keep all things standing as they are, no Body can sustain any Damage by either. But when once these Guesses begin to be
extended

extended to our Inside, and Physicians when we are Sick, to restore us, turning Philosophers, draw Conclusions from 'em as if they were real Truths, then they may do us a great deal of hurt: And if the *Hypothesis* be wrong, the Patient is in a miserable condition.

But that I may not be thought to move above my Sphere, and yet shew the little Dependance that is to be had in Physick upon these ingenious Whim-sies of inventive Brains, I shall repeat what has been said of them by a very learned Man-of that Profession.

‘ There needs, methinks, says he, no better
 ‘ Proof of the doubtfulness and uncertainty of ge-
 ‘ neral *Systems* of natural Philosophy, than the Dif-
 ‘ ference to be observ’d between them, for since
 ‘ there can be but one, either Ancient or Modern,
 ‘ that can correspond to the real Nature of Things,
 ‘ and yet every one seems to be recommended as
 ‘ true Resemblances of them; Men that will espouse
 ‘ one, that is, that will be so blindly lead to assent
 ‘ to the Truth of Fact, because so taught in such
 ‘ speculative Fictions, must, if they will but pro-
 ‘ ceed carefully, even in their own way, be plun-
 ‘ ged in some Difficulty in making their Choice by
 ‘ which to do it; by reason there being so many of
 ‘ them, and each represented as a Copy of natu-
 ‘ ral Beings, it cannot be readily determin’d which
 ‘ to confide in, when there appears so many pro-
 ‘ mising Pretences, unless they first examine their
 ‘ particular Goodnesses before they assent to either:
 ‘ And that is not to be done, but by one of these
 ‘ two ways.

‘ First, either by the Excellency of the Contrivance of the *System*, in the Harmony, Symmetry, and Agreement of it in all its Parts: Or Secondly, from the examining and comparing it with Things themselves by Experiments and Observa-
 ‘ tions,

tions, that they may from them learn whether it really agrees with all such natural *Phænomena*, it is pretended to explain.

If Men will always judge of Discourses by the first, they will be irrecoverably lost in a Labyrinth of Uncertainties without either Clue or Thread to guide them; for there can be no *Criterion* whereby to distinguish between Fact and Fiction, Truth and Fable; for ingenious Men are rarely so unfruitful in thought, or so barren in Invention, but that they can contrive and dress a Work with such endearing Ornaments, as are Symmetry in its Parts, Grace and Beauty in its Compositions, without being oblig'd to Copy from any real Original: So that should others pretend to try the Value of the Metal by that Touchstone, they may be unhappily brought to acknowledge the Metamorphosis of *Ovid* to be as real as the Books of *Moses*; the Visions of *Quævedo* to be as true as the Revelations of St. *John*.

But if by the last, then they seem of no manner of Use, by reason then they appeal from the *Hypothesis* to the Things themselves, to learn their Natures, and that may be as fairly done without any such precarious Assistance.

Neither can they be from thence assur'd how far their beloved Opinions will correspond to the Nature of other Things, until they have particularly try'd them; for Experiments being only made upon Particulars must be infinitely multiplied, if general Knowledge is sought to be obtain'd that way, for by such, Men can safely conclude no farther than of the Nature of such Bodies upon which it is made. It must be acknowledged some Contrivers of these airy Doctrines have oblig'd their Readers by bringing some Testimonies from Things themselves, to prove their Conjectures; but then the Numbers of such Witnesses

nesses are so Scanty in respect of that immense Ocean of Beings that compose this vast *System*, that they pretend to explain, and the Choice of them so advantageously made, such only being produced that can be smoothly explicated by their Principles; and their Evidence is usually so cunningly deliver'd, that they seem to an impartial Reason, rather to give an occasion to suspect, than any ways to confirm their Doctrines: For in such it may readily be discern'd they are more concern'd to find Proofs to support what they have thus contriv'd, or taken up as true, than sincerely by such to enquire after Truth itself: For indeed Men having once (whether wantonly or unwarily, it matters not) establish'd a firm belief of the Truth of an *Hypothesis*, there seems not much reason to expect they should enquire farther, unless it be that they may make it appear with the finer Grace or better Lustre.

That this likewise has been the Opinion of many both Ancient and Modern Physicians concerning *Hypotheses*, can not be doubted, if we consider, that generally the Wisest, and those that have been counted the most honest among them in all Ages, have stuck the closest to *Experience*, and put the least Confidence in those *airy Speculations*. The more Ancient, among the *Greeks* especially, look'd with great Indifference upon the Principles of Natural Philosophy, whether they were true or no, and all Disputes about it, that did not refer to Practice, they look'd upon as Curiosities going beyond their Art, and about which they would not contend. Upon this Account they generally allow'd of two sorts of Truth, the one in Physick, the other in Natural Philosophy; and that what was such in one, might not be such in the other. This President they derived from their great Master *Hippocrates*, who in his Discourses sometimes proceeds
C
upon

upon the Doctrine of the Four Elements, as if it were true : Sometimes he goes upon the Doctrine of *Atomes*, as if he regulated his Cures thereby : Sometimes he seems to favour the Tenets of the Chymists, and cries out as Mr. Boyle and other Chymists cite him, *Non Calidum, non frigidum, humidum, siccum esse quod maximam vim agendi habet in corpore verum amarum & salsum, & dulce & acidum, &c.* Sometimes he proceeds as it were upon the Principles of the old Methodists, and ascribes the origin of Diseases, to the altering of the Texture of the Body, to the different Conformation of Parts, the different Configuration of Pores, &c. This was the Course this great Man took ; he was willing to observe in all Diseases the Motions and Course of Nature, and never troubled his Head with regulating his Practice by the Conclusions of any one Hypothesis.

Dr. Bathurst, when he saw Students of Physick lay great Stress upon Speculation and Theory, used to tell them. *Nunquam ille Medicus magnus erit, quisquis patitur se principiis Philosophicis alligari atque constringi.* It is impossible for any Person to be a great Physician, who ties up himself to one sort of Natural Philosophy, as if it was really true and certain ; which is confirm'd by daily Experience ; for we seldom see that those who excel in witty Speculations are ever happy Practitioners. Dr. Baglivi, Physician to the present Pope, shews the great Danger there is in drawing Conclusions from the Analogy and Similitude we conceive between the Operations within us, and those that are without us. There is a vast difference between Things inanimate and living Creatures ; and the Operation of Medicines as the learned Dr. Stubbs says very well, is oftentimes such as answers not the Principles of any Philosophy ; and the Digestions of Nature are so different from those of Chymistry, her
Fires,

Fires, her Solvents, her Filters, her Furnaces and Vessels, her Mixtures and degrees of Heat so discrepant, that there is no arguing from the one to the other.

Celsus, who has been stiled *Hippocrates Latinorum*, has a very witty Passage upon these Speculative and Reasoning Physicians. *Requirere etiam* (says he) *ratio idem doceat quod experientia an aliud? Si idem supervacuam esse; si aliud etiam contrarium.* He wanted to know whether *Reason* taught the same which *Experience* did, or something else: If the same, says he, then it is superfluous; and if something else, then it may as well teach the quite contrary: And in another Place, where having spoken of the Darknes of the Causes of Things, and the uncertainty of the *Theorems* in Physick; he says, *Ac nihil istas cogitationes ad medicinam pertinere eo quoque disci, quod qui diversa de his senserint ad eandem tamen sanitatem homines perduxerint id enim fecisse, quia non ab obscuris causis neque a naturalibus actionibus, quæ apud eos diversæ erant sed ab experimentis prout cuique respondeant, medendi vias traxerint, ne inter initia quidem ab istis questionibus deductam esse medicinam sed ab experimentis.* That these Speculations, says he, do not belong to the Art of Physick, may ever be learn'd from hence, that those who had different Opinions about them, have equally restor'd their Patients to Health; a certain sign, that they did not derive their Method of Cure from the Causes which were obscure, nor the Operations of Nature about which they differ'd, but *Experiments*, as they were correspondent to every ones Opinion: And certainly the medical Art owes its origin not to those Disputations, but *Experiments*.

Either these great Men knew nothing of the matter, or else some of our Physicians are in the wrong to suggest, that unless a Man has one Philosophical *Hypothesis*, by which he wholly directs his Pra-

Etice, he ought not to be entrusted with the Administration of inward Medicines ; but if we must have an *Hypothesis*, which of them shall we chuse, or what Physicians advise shall we ask about it ? Or rather let the Dead inform us ; since divers (says Mr. Boyle) of the eminentest Methodists themselves have more than once ingeniously acknowledg'd to me, and seriously deplor'd with me, the incompleatness of their Art, which perhaps made (that learned Prince) the late King, tell them, *that they were at best but good Gueffers*. And since about divers particular Diseases, we have observ'd the Method of some of the most reputed Physicians of England, (which yet I think, is at this Day as well stored with learned Men of that Profession as any part of Europe) not only differing, but repugnant to each other ; I suppose we may without disrespect to their Profession, dissent from the most of them about those Cases about which they are reduced to disagree so much among themselves.

This contrariety of *Hypotheses* and Opinions is so obvious every where in the Writings, Discourses, and Practice of Physicians, that it would be superfluous to spend any time in proving it ; however, the Reader shall meet with some notable Instances of it in the fourth and fifth Chapters, to which referring him, I shall end this with another saying of the same Celsus whom I mention'd before. *Neque se dicere consilio medicum non egere, & irrationale animal hanc Artem posse prestare, sed has latentium rerum conjecturas ad rem non pertinere quia non intersit quid morbum faciat sed quid tollat*. He tells us, that he did not say that a Physician had no occasion for Prudence and Wisdom, or that an irrational Creature was capable of exercising that Art, (of Physick) but that those Conjectures of Things that were hid, were nothing to the Purpose, because *it matter'd not what made the Disease, but what remov'd it*.

C H A P. III.

Of the Symptoms of the Gout.

IN giving a definition of the *Gout*, every Author has hook'd in something of the *System* he follow'd. *Herman Busschhof*, who suppos'd the Cause of the *Gout* to be a Vapour, gives this large Description of it: The *Gout*, says he, is a preternatural, inward, deep-lurking, and for the most part invisible little swelling within in the *Periosteum*, that is the Membrane that enwraps all Bones, caused from a dry and cold Ill-natur'd Damp or Vapour, which out of the Arteries, by the expelling Vertue of the Heart is driven out into the Place that is between the Bone and the *Periosteum*, for the most part into such Limbs of the Body as are about the Joints: In which this Vapour being and remaining impacted and enclos'd, and distending that most sensible Membrane, produces those violent and intollerable Pains, whereby the Motion of those Limbs is incumbred and dispoiled, and many other grievous Accidents occasion'd. Other Physicians give other Definitions, yet most of them agree that it is a deep, distending, piercing, throbbing, continual, and bitter Pain the *Glanduls* next adjoining to the *Periosteum*. It is generally divided in *Hot* and *Cold*: In the First, the Skin of the Part affected is higher colour'd, and the Pain more intense than in the latter.

In the History of this Disease, I shall follow the Candid as well as Sagacious *Sydenham*, who has set down the *Phænomena* of it, with greater Fidelity, and made more useful Observations in the *Gout*, than all the Physical World besides. After distinguishing between the *Regular* and *Irregular* Attacks of this Distemper, he has observ'd, that the former

mer generally invade People all on a sudden, at the latter end of *January*, or the beginning of *February*. All the Notice that the *Gout* gives 'em of its Approach, is, that some Weeks before, the Patients find a Crudity and Rawness in their Stomachs, with a windy sort of Distention and Heaviness of the Body, which Symptoms daily encrease, till at last the *Tyrant* at once appears. A few Days before, there is a Numbness felt, and as it were a descent of Wind thro' the fleshy Part of the Thighs, with spasmodick Motions; and the Day before the Fit, the Appetite is more Voracious than at other times, but not Natural; the Patient goes to Bed tollerably well, but about two Hours after Midnight he is waked with the violence of the Pain, for the most part affecting the great *Toe*, sometimes the *Heel*, and at other times the *Ankle*, or the *Calf* of the *Leg*. But I must observe here, that the Symptoms happen not to all People afflicted alike, nor do they begin with many Patients at any set Hour of Night or Day, or time of the Year, for some have it in all Seasons: Nor does it in all first come in the great *Toe*, for some who have been severely troubled with it for many Years, never had it in that Part, nor yet in the Feet; but in some it begins first in one part, in others in another, and again in others in Parts different from 'em both; tho' I do not say, but that in the Progress of the Distemper, it may be diverted or carried to several other Parts; according as the predominant Cause may lead it, and when it comes sharp, be it upon what Part it will, the Pain is like that of dislocated Bones, and feels as if cold Water was poured upon the Membrane thereof, which is followed by shivering and shaking, and something of a Fever; as the Pain encreases, so the shivering and shaking go off by Degrees; about Night the Pain is come to its height, accomodating it self according

to the Variety of the Bones of the *Tarsus*, and *Metatarsus*, whose Ligaments it seizes, sometimes resembling a violent stretching of those Ligaments, sometimes the gnawing of a Dog, and at other times an incumbent Weight. The Part affected has moreover such an exquisite Pain, that the very Bed-cloaths are insupportable to it as well as hard treading in the Chamber; another Affliction that disturbs the Patient, is the wearisome turning of the Part hither and thither, and it's continually changing of Place. The tossing likewise of the whole Body which always attends the Fit, is as tiresome as the continual Agitation and Pain of the afflicted Member. A thousand endeavours are used in changing the Posture of the Body, and the Place whereon the Member lies to alleviate the Pain, but no Ease is had till two or three a Clock in the Morning of the second Day; at which time the Patient is suddenly reliev'd by reason there is some Digestion and Discussion of the Peccant Matter, tho' he undeservedly ascribes it to that Position of the affected Member he used last. And now being in a breathing Sweat, he falls a-sleep; when he wakes, he finds the Pain much abated, and the Part affected, swell'd. The next Day, and perhaps two or three after, if the Matter that breeds the Gout, is copious, the Part affected will be more in Pain again, which encreases towards the Evening, but abates about the time of the Cock's crowing. Within a few Days the other Foot will be in Pain as the former was, and if the former has left off aking, the Weakness it had, soon vanishes; and Strength is so immediately restored to it, as if it never had been out of Order, if the Pain is violent in the Foot lately seiz'd. Sometimes when there is such an abundance of Peccant Matter, that one Foot is not able to contain it, it afflicts both together with equal Violence; but most commonly it seizes them one

one after another as has been said. After it has troubled the Feet; the Fits that follow are Irregular, both as to the Time of their Approach and Duration; yet the Pain always returns in the Evening, and abates again by Morning, and of a Series of these small Fits, consists what we call a Fit of the *Gout*, longer or shorter according to the Age of the Patient; for it is not to be suppos'd, when any one is afflicted with this Disease two or three Months, that it is one Fit, but rather a Series and Chain of many small ones, whereof the latter are still more gentle and shorter, till the Peccant Matter being wholly consum'd, the Patient recovers his former Health, which in vigorous People, or else such who have rarely been afflicted with the *Gout*, comes to pass often in fourteen Days, and in those that have often had it, in two Months; but in such as are more weakned, either by the long continuance of the Disease, or by Age, it does not go off before the Summer. The first fourteen Days, the Urine is of a high Colour, which after Separation has a red Sediment, and looks as if it was full of Sand; the quantity of Urine the Patient makes, is not a third part of what he Drinks, and the Belly is most commonly bound the said first Days. Want of Appetite, shaking of the whole Body towards Evening, heaviness and troublesome uneasiness of the Parts not affected, accompany the whole Fit; a violent itching of the Foot, afterwards attends the Fit in its going off, chiefly between the Toes, and the Feet Scale as if the Patient had taken Poison. The Disease being shook off, a good habit of Body and Appetite return: According to the degree of Pain sustain'd in the last Fit, the following will in Proportion be hastened or retarded; for if the last Fit was very severe, the following will not come till the same time of the Year returns again.

These

These are the Symptoms of the regular *Gout*, by which the Feet are only affected ; they seeming to be the most genuine Seat of the Morbifick Matter, as the Word *Podagra*, an ailing of the Feet, which is the general Name commonly given to the Distemper, seems to intimate. But when by preposterous Methods of Cure, the Distemper is disturbed in its Course, or by the long Continuance of it, the strength of the Body much diminish'd, and Nature is no longer able to thrust out the Morbifick Matter through the usual Passages ; it then becomes irregular, and sometimes affects one part, sometimes another, as the Hands, Wrists, Arms, Knees, &c. It often invades one or more of the Fingers, distorts and makes them useless, and at length produces stony Concretions in the Joints of them, like unto Chalk or Crabs-Eyes, which in time in some People, break the Skin so as to fall out, and new Chalk comes in the room ; and to that degree, that from the Joints of some *Gouty* People several Pounds of it, as it has been reported, have been taken. Sometimes it affects the Arm or Wrist, and there causes a whitish Swelling almost as big as an Egg. Sometimes tho' not so often, it falls upon the Thigh, and causes a Sense, as if a great Weight were hang'd upon the Part, but the Vessels being large, and consequently the Obstruction less, the Pain it excites in this Part, is inconsiderable. When it attacks the Knees, it causes most exquisite Torments, and the Patient, who can neither move nor help himself, is as if he was nail'd or fasten'd to the Place he lies on ; yet the Pain is not so urgent during the whole Fit, if the Patient can but keep the Part affected quiet.

Whereas the regular *Gout* seldom invades People but about the latter end of *Winter*, and after having held two or three Months at farthest, goes off civilly, now it remains a whole Year, excepting

the two or three hot Months, and then scarcely a respite or perfect Manumission; and as in this irregular *Gout*, the general Fit is longer, so those particular Fits that compose it, are likewise more lasting, and the Patients have frequently sharp and violent Pains for fourteen Days together without Remission, attended with Sickness, and often a total loss of Appetite. The Patient during the Intervals of the Fits in the regular *Gout*, enjoy'd a perfect State of Health, but in this, even at the time of the Intermission, he feels a Stiffness and Disorder in those Joints that have been affected, and such a Debilitation or Weakness remains in them sometimes, that they become in a manner useless, not having so much Strength, if in the Hands, as to hold up a Straw, or snap a Hair in two, which lasts sometimes for several Weeks or Months; and the Patient is often afflicted with unsavory Belchings, and other signs of Indigestion. When the Disease is confirm'd, it often happens upon Yawning, especially in the Morning, that the Ligaments of the Bones of the *Metatarsus*, are violently pull'd, sometimes it feels as if the same Bones receiv'd a Blow with a great Club, and were broken in pieces. The *Tendons* of the *Muscles* that support the Legs, are sometimes taken with such sharp and violent Convulsions, that the Pain occasion'd by them, if it should last but a little while would be insufferable. The Urine that was before high-colour'd, especially in the Fits, and rendred in a small quantity, is now like that voided in a *Diabetes*, both as to Colour and Quantity. After many and dreadful Torments, when Nature, being partly oppress'd with the Burden of the Peccant Matter, and partly by old Age, is no more able to expel the Morbifick Particles constantly and forcibly to the Extremities of the Body, the succeeding Fits begin to be less severe as to the Pains in the

Joints,

Joints, but instead of them a certain Sickness, with a pain of the Belly, spontaneous Weariness, and sometimes a Propension of a Looseness supervene. These Symptoms ease the Pain of the Limbs when they are violent, and likewise vanish when the Pain in the Joints return; and sometimes the Pain, and sometimes the Sickness afflicting alternately, prolong the Fit very much. In these Fits, tho' they are more lasting, the Patient feels not a quarter of the Pain which they used to suffer when his Strength was more entire: But the more gently he is treated, the more is the Morbifick Matter translated to the inward Parts, and at length he Dies, more of the Sickness than the Pain.

But these inward Afflictions of the *Gout* are not only observ'd in such as have been long tormented, and are rendred decrepid with the *Gout*, but likewise in Young People, and others that have but little been troubled with it, when Nature either broke by Infirmities, or disturb'd by preposterous Aids, is unable to throw off the Morbifick Matter as far as the Extremities: And in them this Distemper, not only produces many Disorders in the Stomach and Guts; but likewise personates, according to the Disposition of the Patient, many Distempers to which the *Gout* seems to have no manner of Affinity.

What I said last, has hardly ever been touched upon by Physicians, and never particularly treated of, but by a late ingenious Author Dr. *Musgrave* of *Exeter*, who in his Elegant *Latin* Treatise de *Arthritide anomala*, has furnish'd the Learned World with many valuable Observations and Discoveries concerning the internal *Gout*.

The worthy Author I mention'd, calls no *Gout* Anomalous or Irregular, but that which leaving or passing by the usual Objects of its Fury the Joints and external Parts, invades the Trunk it self. The

Distempers which by his own Experience he has known to have been personated by the *Gout*, are the following, *viz.* *Indigestion*, *loss of Appetite*, *Pain*, and many other Disorders of the *Stomach*, the *Cholick*, *Looseness*, the *Bloody-flux*, *Abscesses* in the *Guts*; *Melancholy*, *Syncope's* or *Faintings*; the *Stone* in the *Kidneys*, *Asthma's*, *Catarrhs*, *Coughs* and *Peripneumony's*; the *Phthisick*, *Quinsies*, *Head-achs* and *Vertigo's*, *Apoplexies*, *Palsies*; wandering and fixed *Pains* in the *Body*; *Ophthalmy's*, *St. Anthony's Fire*; *Scald-Heads*, and *Defluxions* with the *Tooth-ach*; every one of these Diseases, whose various Shapes he has known the *Gout* to assume, he treats of at large in distinct Chapters; annexing to each, as so many practical Instances of what he asserts, one or more Histories of his own Patients, in whom that particular Distemper has visibly derived its origin from the *Gout*; from hence we may justly conclude, that the *Phænomena* of the Anomalous or irregular *Gout*, are not easily determin'd, and no fewer in Number than all the Symptoms of the various Distempers, which it is able to imitate together.

Tho' these Observations of Dr. *Musgrave* concerning so many different Distempers occasion'd and personated by the *Gout*, are (as I hinted before) entirely New, yet that the *Miasma Arthriticum*, or the Morbifick Matter of the *Gout*, may from the Joints be remov'd to the inward Parts, has been asserted by many Physicians, not only of this and the preceding Age; as *Sydenham*, *Etmuller*, *Sylvius*, and *Sennertus*, but several of the Ancients, as *Trallianus*, *Aetius*, *Paulus Aegineta*, *Galen* himself, and before him *Aretæus* of *Cappadocia*, have been of the same Opinion.

Besides the Symptoms already mention'd, there is another ill Consequence that often attends the *Gout*, *viz.* the *Stone* in the *Kidneys*, which it breeds in a great many; either because the Sick lies along
while

while upon his Back, or because the Organs of Secretion have left off to perform their due Functions, or because the *Stone* is made of a part of the same kind of Matter; but which of them is the Cause, Dr. Sydenham pretends not to determine. Whatever is the Origin of this Disease, the Patient has sometimes many sad Contemplations, to know whether the *Stone* or the *Gout*, is most severe; and sometimes the *Stone* hindring the Passage of the Water into the Bladder thro' the Urinary Passages, kills him without waiting on the slow *Gouty* Execution. To all these Afflictions is likewise added; that during the Fit, the Patient's Mind is as it were infected with the Contagion, and so far suffers with the Body, that it is difficult to know which of them is most afflicted. For every Fit may as properly be call'd a Fit of *Anger*, as of the *Gout*. For the Mind and Reason are so extremely enervated by the infirm Body, that they are disorder'd by the least Motion of the Affections; so that he is as troublesome to others as to himself: He is moreover as obnoxious to the rest of the Passions, viz. to *Fear*, *Care*, and other of the same kind, by which he is also vexed, till the Disease going off, the Mind also has recover'd its former Tranquility: And after this manner the Fits are more and more protracted, as the Intermissions grow shorter, till at length, (the Bowels being so hurt by hatching and embracing the Peccant Matter, that the Organs of Secretion can no more perform their Duty) the Blood stuffed with Dregs, Stagnates, and the Patient dies.

C H A P. IV.

Of the Causes of the Gout.

AS to the first and remote, or Procatartick Causes of the *Gout*, there has been little wrangling among the Physicians. The general Opinion is, that *Drunkenness* and *Gluttony* are the Father and Mother of this Distemper, and that a moist Air, too much Sleep, want of Exercise and Sloth, are necessary Causes: They likewise agree, that Excess of *Venery* has no small Hand in the Production of it; only the ingenious Dr. *Baynard* is of another Opinion as to the latter; and has handsomely endeavour'd to remove that Imputation. 'How *Venery* (says he) should be lugg'd in to be a Party concern'd either in the Cause or Quarrel, I can't understand; for among the *Turks*, &c. where they are mostly enervated by Women, they have no such thing as the *Gout*, Wine being by their Law forbidden, &c. so lay the Load upon the right Horse, and saddle old *Bacchus's* Back, as the chief Author and Contriver of this Joint-Evil, and ask *Venus* pardon for laying a drunken Brat at her Door which she never deserv'd for.

Sennertus is of Opinion, that whereas the next and immediate Cause of the *Gout*, is something that has as it were the nature of a Mineral, altogether unfit to nourish the Body; the Vine attracts it more powerfully than other Plants, 'That this is so (says he) appears even from that Tartar which is to be found more abundantly in the Vine than in any other Plant, and in that Vines will grow and thrive in those Places wherein other Plants will not prosper, as not having Aliment enough; the Vines contenting themselves in a manner only with that very Salt of the Earth, ' which

' which afterwards, together with the Wine (tho'
 ' variously chang'd) is derived into Man's Body;
 ' where being heap'd up, it affords Matter unto
 ' the *Gout*. The Wines therefore that are least
 ' offensive are such as grow in a Sandy Earth, and
 ' contain less of this Tartarous Matter: And I
 ' know Places, where tho' Wine is drank in great
 ' abundance by the Inhabitants of them, I never
 ' heard that any of them were troubled with the
 ' *Gout*. But on the contrary, those Wines that
 ' grow in an Earth that is fat, muddy, clayish,
 ' stony, and that has in it a Mineral Marl, Gra-
 ' vel-stones, or any thing else that is Mineral min-
 ' gled with it, are very apt and ready to generate
 ' the *Gout*. Such as are the Wines of *Moravia*, *Bo-*
 ' *hemia*, *Hungary*, and most of the Wines of *Au-*
 ' *stria*.

The same learned Physician asserts, that there
 are likewise Waters that generate the *Gout*; ' For,
 ' says he, in those Places where the *Gout* is *Epi-*
 ' *demic*, not only the Rich that drink Wine, but
 ' the Poor also that drink Water, are afflicted with
 ' the *Gout*. *Julius Alexandrinus* relates, that he
 knew a certain Person, who was always troubl'd
 with the *Gout* upon the eating of *Carps* and *Breams*;
 so that he could when he list'd, bring the *Gout*
 upon himself.

Besides those notorious external Causes from
 which the *Gout* is generally thought to derive its
 Origin. Dr. *Musgrave* (whom I quoted in the fore-
 going Chapter) has discover'd some more obscure
 internal ones, and observes that he has known it
 produc'd by several Distempers of which it has
 appear'd like a Symptom. His *Latin* Book on this
 Subject, which he calls a *Treatise* of the *Symptomick*
Gout, is full of useful Observations; and the Di-
 stempers upon which in his Practice he has found
 the *Gout* to ensue as a secondary Disease, are the
 follow-

following. A *Rheumatism*, a *Dropsy*, the *Green-sickness*, *Melancholy*, the *Hypochondriack* and *Hysterick Passions*, the *Scurvy*, the *Pox*, an *Asthma*, a *Fever*, the *Cholick*, and several *Cutaneous Diseases*. Tho' no Body has written so largely concerning the *Symptomick Gout*, as the learned Author I nam'd, yet the same has been taken Notice of by several before, and among others by *Averrhoes*, who testifies, that he himself became *Arthritick* from an acute Disease, when Nature by the *Crisis* had driven forth the Humours unto the Joints.

It is generally receiv'd that few or none have the *Gout*, before the use of *Venery*, unless where the Distemper is *Hereditary*. But what *Hippocrates* said of Women, that they never had the *Gout*, unless their *Courses* were stopt, did not hold true many Ages after his; for since Luxury is encreased, Women are troubl'd with it as well as Men; they having as *Seneca* well observes, *not chang'd their Nature, but their manner of Living*. That the *Rich* are more afflicted with it than the *Poor*, is unquestionable; but what the Generality of Physicians assert, that this Distemper as well as the *Hypochondriack Passion* never invade Fools, is contradicted by Doctor *Musgrave*, who gives us a notable Instance of one, who having several Years been troubl'd with *Winds*, *Rumblings*, *Melancholy*, and many other Symptoms of the *Hypochondriack Passion*, was violently seiz'd with the *Gout*, and at last kill'd by these two Distempers.

Hitherto we have touch'd upon nothing, about which the different Opinions of Physicians have been many; but to see what has been said concerning the immediate Cause of the *Gout*, we must enter into a spacious Field of Dissention: Some will have it to be a bare *Intemperies*, or *Dyscracy* without any afflux of Humours at all: Their Reason is, that often there is a Pain felt without the least Swelling;

Swelling; this is the Opinion of *Costeus*, as may be seen in his third Book upon *Avicen*. *Paracelsus* likewise gives us a History of his own Disease, by which he would prove that a bare *Intemperies* may produce the *Gout*; and *Petrus Salius Diverfius*, makes mention of *Arthritick* Pains from Dryness. *Guainerius* and *Matthæus* alledge a Windiness as the immediate Cause of the *Gout*, and if we believe *William Ten-Rhyne*, *Hippocrates* was of the same Opinion. This *Ten-Rhyne* was a *Dutch Physician*, that has wrote a *Treatise* of the *Gout*, in which affirming a Windiness to be the Cause of that Distemper, he vindicates his Assertion after this manner. He first relates what *Hippocrates* has said in his Book *de Flatibus*, touching the Air's being especially the Author both of Life and Death to all Animals; as also his saying, that this Air or Spirit, which in our Bodies we call a Vapour, is the sole Cause of all Diseases, and afterwards has these Words. 'I therefore conclude with *Hippocrates* that the *Gout* arises from filthy diseas'd Steams, or from a flatuous Ventosity, upon which if any Humour follows, it was the Vapour that made way for it; and if this Authority should not be sufficient, he adds, that *Guido de Cauliaco*, a stout Voucher for the four Humours, had said how he read in the Pope's Canons, that the *Gout* arose from Vapours.

Another *Dutchman* of the same Opinion, was *Herman Buffschof*. The Motives that induc'd him to embrace it, were First; the sudden Cures which he had seen perform'd in the *Gout* by the *Moxa*, (of which more hereafter) for, says he, if it be true that the Medicine declares the Disease, as Physicians affirm with their Master *Hippocrates*; I must then conclude, that no Humours, but only a spirituous Thing, is the Cause of this Disease. Secondly, The sudden Motion of the *Gouty* Matter, sometimes dislodging, in a very short time, from one

Limb to another, from the Hand to the Foot, from one Foot to the other, &c. flying, as it were with swift Wings from above to beneath, and back again. These he said were the Reasons that oblig'd him to judge, that it must be some spirituous Matter and not a Humour, that was able to do such things.

Abundance of Physicians have agreed, that the nearest Cause of the *Gout*, was a Humour, but then what that Humour was, has been a matter of endless Dispute among them. Some say it is *Phlegm* mix'd with *Blood*; others that it is *Crude* and *Watery* Blood; and others again, that it is a *Whey*. Some accuse all the Humours; *Blood*, *Choler*, *Phlegm* and *Melancholy*: *Arthritick* Pains (say they) are sometimes appear'd by the Evacuation of *Blood*; other Pains by the purging forth of the *Phlegm*; a third sort from the emptying the Body of *Choler*; and the last kind of them, by the Evacuation of *Melancholy* are very much mitigated and allay'd; all which shew that the Cause of the *Arthritis* or *Gout*, is sometimes *Hot*, and sometimes *Cold*, and the Matter therefore is very various and different. *Fernelius* on the contrary denies that the *Blood*, *Choler*, or *Melancholy* can produce the *Gout*, and allows of no other Cause than a Cold *Pituitous*, or *Phlegmatick* and *Serous* Humour, affirming the *Gout* to be always a cold Distemper; yet *Thomas Erastus* in his Fourth Disputation against *Paracelsus*, writes, that he never but once saw the *Gout* bred from a pure and meer *Phlegm*. *Carolus Piso* again will have the *Serous* and *Wheyish* Uncleanneſs to be the only Cause of the *Gout*.

Mercurialis and others having consider'd the vehement and wracking Pains that are often felt in the *Gout*, think it impossible they should be excited from a cold *Phlegmatick* Humour; and add, that such a Humour is likewise unfit for so quick and sudden

sudden a Motion as we see in the *Gout*, and that it cannot possibly insinuate it self into those membranous Parts; they therefore assert that a hot Cause accompanies the other, and conclude that the *Gout* has its Original from *Phlegm* mixt with *Choler*. *Ludovicus Mercatus* again will not allow any vitious Humours (tho' they should abound) sufficient to produce the *Gout*; unless the same be likewise crude and indigested. *Cardanus* holds the Cause of the *Gout* to be a *Spirit*, and *Sennertus* will have it to be a salt, sharp, subtil Humour, such a one as for the greatest part resembles salt Spirits.

Many of the Chymists, as *Paracelsus*, *Petrus Severinus*, and others, have laid all the Fault upon the *Synovia*; by which Term they mean the pellucid *Mucilage* that is every where transcolated thro' the *Glands*, to lubricate the Parts, and more especially the Joints, and is of like sort with what we see to run out of *Calve's* Feet when they are cut. The Disease (they say) is a mineral Liquor, or a sour austere Juice, such as are *Allum*, *Vitriol*, *Vinegar*, *Barberries*, *Acacia*, and the like; which being Salts contrary and opposite to the *Synovia*, when they are generated in Men, make it boil over. The ingenious *Dr. Willis* is of Opinion, that to cause the *Gout*, a vitriolick Matter is brought from the Nerves, which meeting with some saline fix'd Particles of the Blood, they both boil up and grow hot together, and afterwards turn to a *Coagulum* or Curd: To prove this, he gives a known Instance of *Spirit* of *Vitriol* poured to *Oil* of *Tartar*; and why (says he) may we not think that in the Fits of the *Gout*, there is something like it? *Viz.* That from the fighting and mutual Conflict of the Liquors, which are of a diverse saline Nature, the Nervous Fibres are prick'd and provok'd, and at length from the various Coagulations of either Juice, that there is sometimes heap'd together in

the affected Places a Calculous or Stony Matter.

Dr. *Lifter's* Sentiment hereabouts is singular; he imagines that by some of the *Procatartick* Causes, the *excretory Ducts* about the Joints may be debilitated, relax'd, or obstructed, and to be reduc'd unfit to perform their usual Contractions. Hence he thinks it will follow, that the Mucilaginous Humour now made *ex crudo & lento sero*, from a crude and viscous Serum, by stagnating in the *excretory Ducts*, will easily putrify, grow sharp, and be turned into an Ichorous Matter, and at last by corroding the Bones, be capable of turning them into a chalky or stony Substance.

Tachenius, *Sylvius* and *Etmuller* accuse likewise the *Synovia*, but more rationally than *Paracelsus* and his Followers. They consider the *Synovia* as a sweet and temperately *Alcalick* Balsam of Nature. This they say is the proper Object of the Volatile and Spirituous *Acid* of *Gouty* People, by which being attack'd, the Mucilaginous Substance is successively thickned like the White of Eggs, and in tract of time turn'd into a chalky or stony Matter; and so perfectly 'Chalky' is it in some People, that they have mark'd a Table with their Knuckles, as if they had common Chalk in their Hands. Whoever would know more of this Mucilage, *Synovia*, or Glutinous Matter betwixt the Joints, and the *Glands* that emit it, must consult the *Osteologia Nova* of Dr. *Havers*, who is also of the last mention'd Opinion, and has treated that Matter with greater Accuracy than any that have writ before him.

How little certainty soever there is to be found among the Learned, concerning the Peccant Humour that causes the *Gout*, yet the generality of the Moderns, and most of the Ancients agreed in this, that it is a violent, exalted, and as some call it, *Vitriolick Acid*; till some few Years ago, that nothing might remain uncontroverted, Dr. *Colbatch*

in

in Opposition of them all, at once absolved the *Acids* of all the Crimes laid to their Charge, not only in *Gouts* and *Rheumatisms*, but also in the *Scurvy*, *Consumptions*, *Fevers*, and many other Distempers, and threw the Fault (not without Argument) upon the *Alcaly's*, the great *Asylum* of so many famous Physicians. He has Chymically separated the Blood of several Persons both Sick and Sound, and never met with a grain of *Acid* in any, but found the *Alcalies* more abounding in a morbid than a healthy State. He has demonstrated moreover, that the *Tophi* or Chalk-stones bred in the Joints, were made at the time of the Fit, that they were *Homogeneous* Bodies, and notorious *Alcalies*, and consequently, that it was impossible they should be produc'd by *Acids*: No Body has yet fairly overthrown his Arguments; and what Work this must make among the Profession of Physick, I leave the Reader to judge, when the Author himself confesses, that if his *Hypothesis* be true, which he seems not to doubt of, then all other Physicians have been in the wrong.

Nor do the Learned differ more in defining the Morbifick *Gouty* Matter it self, than they do in assigning a Seat for it, I mean the Mine where it is heap'd up, and from whence at the Time of the *Paroxysm*, it is fetch'd to afflict the Parts. Several will have the Humour to be derived from the Head: Some of them say, that it comes from between the Skull and the Skin; others hold that it flows, not only that way, but likewise descends from within, by the Superficies of the Spinal Marrow. *Fernelius* is of the first, and *Eustachius Rudius* of the latter. A third sort say, that it comes down thro' the very middle Substance of the Marrow.

Many are of Opinion, that the Humour is contain'd within the Veins and Arteries, and out of them poured forth into the Joints. *Sennertus* is one of

of these, and judging that it must of necessity be generated in some Concoction of the Blood, determines it to be in the Liver and Spleen; the Sanguification being there hurt in its own Manner. Another is *Adrian Spigelius*, but with this Difference, that tho' he acknowledges the Afflux to be made in the Veins and Arteries, he is yet unwilling wholly to desert the Opinion which determine that the Humours flow from the Head; wherefore he concludes, that the Fluxion is both from the Head and the Liver. But no Body renders this Matter more intricate than *Franciscus India*, a *Veronese* Physician, who in his first Book of the *Gout*, writes, that the Members that send forth these Superfluities are various and many; and especially the Head, the Stomach, the Intestines, the Liver, and the Kidneys, and that those Fluxions are indeed more especially from the Head and from the Brain; because that tho' those Humours draw their Original from the Stomach and other Members before they flow into the Joints, they first of all ascend into the Head, and from thence are afterwards transmitted into the Parts lying underneath it.

Tachenius, *Etmuller*, and others, trace the Original of the Acid Gouty Matter that affects the *Synovia*, from the Stomach and a depraved Digestion, and amongst them *Helmont*, in these Words. 'The Original of the *Gout* is in the Stomach, which breeds an *Acid* which infects the *Archeus*, this *Acid* insinuating it self into the *Synovia*, coagulates it, and at length by a preternatural Heat it is harden'd into Chalk, and that the Intenseness or Remissness of the Pain, is according to the difference of the Salts, whence the Acidity proceeds. But *Sylvius de le Boe* derives it from the *Pancreatick* Juice, and some Salt in the Bile and Salival Humour, mixing themselves together in the Guts.

There are other Opinions, of which for fear of tiring my Reader, I shall take no notice, for to relate every thing that has been said upon this Head, would be an endless piece of Work, and to have repeated all the Arguments that have been broach'd to defend and refute the several Opinions already quoted, must have swell'd this one Chapter to a very large Volume: What I design'd, was to say as much of these Things as would be sufficient to show the Reader, what Certainty the most Learned Physician could have to boast of in his Art, whenever the true Knowledge of the Disease I treat of, came in question.

C H A P. V.

Of the Cure of the Gout.

HAVING seen how strangely the most famous Physicians disagree about the internal Cause and Fomes or Mine of the Disease, no Man of Sense can expect to meet in their Writings with any Method of Cure that is much to be depended upon. As to Remedies against the *Gout*, they are as innumerable, as are the Persons that are afflicted with it, every one almost having his particular Remedy; and as to those prescrib'd in Physical Books, they are so plentifully to be met with, that it would be much easier to fill a dozen Leaves with such of them as are recommended by some Author or other, than half a Page with such Simples, as either by themselves or mixt with others have ever been used to Cure this Distemper. The candid *Sydenham*, not willing as other Authors are used, to enumerate and seem to recommend a heap of Remedies which in his Conscience he knew to be of little

little Efficacy in the Cure of so stubborn a Distemper, refers his Readers, as to the *Materia Medica* to *Lucian's* Tragedy of the *Gout*, from whence he said they might chuse Externals and Internals, which perhaps they might find as effectual as many of those Things that were cry'd up by some. But if this won't satisfy the curious Reader, and Compound Medicines are requir'd, let him consult *Sennertus* and *Sir Theodore de Mayerne*, and in only these two Books, not to name any other, he'll meet with as much Variety of judicious Prescriptions, as any reasonable Man would desire.

Notwithstanding the great uncertainty in which Physicians fluctuate as to the true Method of Cure in this Distemper, most of those in repute among us lay the greatest Stress upon *Alcalies*: For which reason I shall transcribe as a Model, a certain Series of Prescriptions (consisting chiefly of *Alcalies* and *Opiates*) which a very noted Physician sometime ago order'd to a Noble Man in this Distemper.

April the 8th, 1691.

℞ *Aq. Cerasor. Nigr. flor. Tiliae, an. ℥vj. Cinnamon. hord. Citri totius an. ℥ss. Diacodij ℥j. Laud. Liquid. Cydon. gut. xij. m. cap. horâ somni.*

℞ *Decoct. Amar. (fact. cum Sennâ, Rhabarb, an. ℥iss. Salis Tart. ℥ij, Quinquin. ℥j.) ℥iv. Crem. Tartari ℥ss. Syr. flor. Persicor. Aq. Cinnam. Hord. an. ℥ss. m. cap. horâ septimâ matutinâ super dormiat.*

℞ *Aq. Lact. Alex. Cerasor. Nigr. an. ℥iv. Pæoniæ Comp. Cinnam. Hord. Protheriacalis an. ℥j. Perlar ppt. Oculor Cancrî ppt. an. ℥ij Alkermes ℥v. Syr. flor. Tunica ℥j. m. cap. Cochlear. 3. vel 4. prout necessitas postulabit.*

April 9.

℞ *Aq. Regin. Hungar.* ℥v. *Tinct. Castor. S. V. extract. Tinct. Croci. S. V. extract. an.* ℥iij. *Tinct. Opij. S. V. extract. ℥ijss. Camphoræ* ℥v. *sacchar. saturni* ℥fs. m.

℞ *Emp. de sapone* ℥iij. *Opij soluti & inspissati* ℥ijss. *Camphoræ* ℥ij, *sacchari saturni* ℥iij m. f. *Emplastr.*

℞ *Aq. Lactis Alex.* ℥vj. *spir. Menthae, Paon. Comp. an.* ℥fs. *Diacodij* ℥j. *Laud. Liq. Lond. gut.* xvij. m. *cap. horâ somni.*

℞ *Ol. Mac. per Exp.* ℥fs. *Balsam. Lucatull.* ℥j, *Balsam. de Gilead.* ℥iij. *Ol. stil. Lumb. terrest. still. Absynthij, Cariophyllor. an.* ℥j. m. *cum quo inungetur Regio Ventriculi ad minimum bis in die, post injectionem applicetur isti Regioni Empl. de Theriacâ venet.*

℞ *Conchar. pr. Oculor. Cancri, an. gr.* xij. *salis Absynth.* ℥fs, *Cinnabar. nativi gr.* viij. *cap. mane crastino die cum Cochlear. Fulap. prius præscript. superbibendo Cochlear. iij. ejusdem. Repetatur Pulv. præced. horâ 7. vespertinâ, addendo Laud. Opiati gr. iij.*

April 12.

℞ *Gummi Ammon. puriss. Mastiches, Thuris. an.* ℥ij, *succini pr. Oculor. Cancri, Corallij rub. an.* ℥j. *Cinnabar nativi, sacchar. saturni, an.* ℥iij. *milleped. pr.* ℥fs. *castor. ℥j. croci* ℥iij, *salis volat. succin.* ℥iss, *viperar. ℥ij. Camphoræ* ℥ij, *cum q. s. Ammoniâ sine Acido solut. & inspissat. F. Pil. sign. The Altering Pills.*

℞ *Aq. Reg. Hungar.* ℥iv. *Tinct. Castor. S. V. extr. Tinct. croci S. V. extr. an.* ℥ij. *Tinct. Opij sp. Vin. extr. ℥vj. sp. Lumbricor.* ℥vj. *Camphoræ* ℥v. *sacch. saturni*

saturni ℥ss. *m. signetur*, The Mixture for external Application.

℞ *Empl. de Vigo* 4to *Mercurio*, *De Ammon. cum cicutâ* an. ℥iij. *Camphoræ* ℥ss. *sacchar. saturn.* ℥v. *Opij solut. sine Acido & inspissat.* ℥ss. *sine ignis calore mixt. f. Magdaleon. adde Castor. Croci* an. ℥ss. *sp. Lumbricor.* q. s. *ad Malaxationem.*

April 15.

℞ *Balsam. Lucatulli* ℥ij, *Ol. Macis per Express.* ℥j, *Axung. Ursi, Anseris* an. ℥ss, *Bals. de Gilead.* ℥vj, *Ol. succini, Petrolei,* an. ℥ss, *Ol. destillat. Cinnam.* ℥vj, *spir. Lumbricor. Formicar.* an. ℥iij, *Ol. destillat. Buxi* ℥ij, *Cariophyllor.* ℥ijss, *Camphoræ* ℥vj, *Ol. Laurini, Hyperici, Rutæ,* an. ℥ss, *m. f. Linimentum, pro externa applicat. part. affect.*

April 19.

℞ *Spirit. Cochlear.* ℥ij, *Diascordij* ℥iij, *Aq. sperm. Ranar.* ℥iss, *Regin. Hungar.* ℥j, *Laud. liq. gut.* 40 *m. signetur*, The Wash for the Gums.

℞ *Corall. pr. Ossis sepia subt. pulv. Lapis spongia,* an. ℥iij, *Terræ Catechu. sacchari saturn.* an. ℥ij, *cum Mell. Rosat. q. s. f. Opiatum. sign.* The Opiat for the Gums.

April 20.

℞ *Aq. Cerasor. nigr.* ℥iss, *Lact. Alexit. sp. Menthe, Diacodij,* an. ℥j, *Aq. Gentian. Comp.* ℥iij *Oculor. Cancr.* ℥j, *Laud. Liquid. gut.* 15. *m. sign.* The quieting Potion.

April 22.

℞ *Heder. Terrestr. Parietariæ, Malvæ* an. *m. j,* *flor. Chamomille, Meliloti, Sambuci,* an. *P. j,* *f. Decoct. in q. s. Aq. Font. & Coletur. Hujus Colatur.* ℞ ℥vj. *vin. Emetic.* ℥ij, *Diacatholic. Mell. Mercurialis,* an. ℥vj, *Ol. Laurini* ℥j. *m. f. Clyst. detur quamprimum.*

℞ *Diascor-*

℞ *Diascordij* ℥j, *oculor. Cancri* ℥j, *sal. volat. succini*, *Bezoar. Mineral. an. gr. xxv.* *Laud. Opiati gr. iij*, *Alkermes* ℥j, *cum syr. Papav. alb. q. s. f. f. Opiatum detur horâ somni.*

April 25.

℞ *Decoct. Amari* (fact cum *senn.* ℥ij *Rhabarb.* ℥j. *Salis Tartar.* ℥ij.) ℥iv. *syr. flor. Persicor.* ℥j. *Aq. Cinnamon.* ℥j. *Cremor. Tart. Solub.* ℥j *m. f. Potio, cap. cras mane.*

April 30.

℞ *Ext. Rudij* ℥ij. *sal. Tart. gr. vj. m. f. Pil. No. v. cap. horâ 6tâ aut septimâ mane.*

℞ *Aq. Gentian. Comp. Absynth. Comp. an.* ℥iij. *sp. Lavend. Comp. Spirit. Mentha, an.* ℥ij. *Tinct. Bezoart.* ℥j. *sp. Castor.* ℥iij. *Conf. Alkermes* ℥ss. *syr. flor. Tunica* ℥j. *Laud. Liquid.* ℥iij. *m. signetur, The Cordial.*

May 29.

℞ *Aq. Mirabilis* ℥iij. *Spirit. Mentha* ℥iv. *m. pro vehiculo Laud. Opiati. Pulv. e Chel.* 69. ℥ss.

May 31.

℞ *Theriaca Venet. Diascordij an.* ℥j. *Alkermes Comp.* ℥j. *salis volat. succini, Bezoard. min. an.* ℥ss. *Laud. Opiat. gr. iv. m. cap. ante cubitum.*

June 1.

Repetatur Opiatum præced.

June 4.

℞ *Oculor. Cancri gr. xvj. Cinnabaris Nativi gr. ix. Pulv. e Chelis Comp. gr. xv. Laud. Opiati gr. iij. m. f. Pulv. cap. ante horâ somni.*

These Prescriptions are quoted by Dr. Colbatch, who was pleas'd to make the following Remarks upon them.

‘ Here; says he, are *Alkalies* and *Opiates* with a Witness; but it is to be noted, that most of these Medicines were several times repeated, yet instead of being any ways Serviceable, exasperated the Symptoms, and not only fix'd the Morbifick Matter upon the affected Parts, but destroy'd the Texture of the Blood to such a degree, that a Dropsy follow'd, which prov'd of fatal Consequence.

‘ The Medicines here prescrib'd, are those that are generally used by most Physicians, and if ever any Body receiv'd Advantage by them, I dare be burnt; and that ever Men should have such dull Fancies, as not to vary from a Method that has never once stood them in any stead, looks very odd; and as for *Alcalious* Medicines in general, I dare be positive, that they never yet cur'd any one Distemper, but very frequently have done a great deal of Mischief.

The Physician from whom I have transcrib'd this, in conformity to his Doctrine, has prescrib'd a Method of curing the *Gout*, by *Acids*, or at least without the Use of any noted *Alcalies*, which to shew how opposite and contradictory the Gentlemen of the Faculty are to each other, I shall set down in the Author's own Words.

‘ The Indications of Cure, says the Doctor, during the time of a Fit are Two-fold. *First*, The easing and taking off the most intollerable Pain. *Secondly*, The correcting and carrying off the Morbifick Matter. Both which Things the following Method will very rarely fail to effect.

‘ When I come to a Patient, who has a Fit of the *Gout*, let it be a regular or irregular one, it matters

‘ matters not, the Indications of Cure, and the
 ‘ Matter causing the Distemper being the same;
 ‘ respect must be had to the Age and Constitution
 ‘ of the Patient, and his former way of Living;
 ‘ and according as these vary, in some respects,
 ‘ the Prescriptions must be varied. But my De-
 ‘ sign being to give a general Account of the Cure
 ‘ of the *Gout*, I leave those little Variations that
 ‘ are to be made, to the Judgment and Discretion
 ‘ of every Physician.

‘ I first of all, if there are Indications that re-
 ‘ quire it, as generally there be, prescribe Blood-
 ‘ letting from 12 to 20 Ounces, more or less, as
 ‘ occasion requires. I afterwards order the fol-
 ‘ lowing Medicines to be taken once in four Hours;
 ‘ the Doses of which are either to be lessen’d or
 ‘ increased according to the Strength and Consti-
 ‘ tution of the Patient: But this ought always to
 ‘ be observ’d, that they must be given in great
 ‘ Quantities, as to occasion two, three, or four
 ‘ Stools in 24 Hours. Now the Strength and
 ‘ Constitutions of People being so various, it is
 ‘ impossible to prescribe a determinate Quantity
 ‘ for every Body in a general Treatise: But the
 ‘ generality of Physicians having given *Cremor Tar-*
 ‘ *tari*, and *Tartarum Vitriolatum* in such inconsider-
 ‘ able Doses, I have chosen to Proportion my
 ‘ Doses of them for the strongest Bodies, that I
 ‘ might excite my Brethren to a more liberal use
 ‘ of ’em.

℞ *Cremor. Tartari* ℥j. *Tartari Vitriolati* ℥ij. ol.
Cariophill. gut. xx. m. f. Pulvis, in 4or *Chartulas* di-
strib. ex quibus cap. unam, 4tâ quâq; horâ, in *Cochle-*
ar. syrup. Balf. Tolutani, superbibendo ℥iv. *Infusio-*
nis sequentis.

℞ *Rad. Eringij sicc.* ℥ij, *Lign. Sassafr.* ʒvj. *Aq. Fontan.* ℥iij, *infunde clausè & calidè per horas sex, & coletur; Colaturæ* ℥ij, *adde Elix. Sulph.* ʒiij. m.

‘ Let them drink for their constant Drink the
‘ following Julep.

℞ *Vini Rhenani veteris; Aq. Fontan. an.* ℥iss, *Elix. Sulph. ʒss. sacchari Albissimi ʒiss. m. f. Fulap. cap. pro potu ordinario.*

‘ For change sake, by reason that People are
‘ subject to be tired with the constant Use of any
‘ one thing, instead of the former Julep for their
‘ constant Drink, they may drink either *Lemmon-*
‘ *ade*, or Barly-water acidulated with Oil of Sul-
‘ phur, and sweeten’d with double-refin’d Sugar;
‘ or else Claret and Water sweeten’d with Sugar,
‘ and acidulated with dulcified Oil of Vitriol; and
‘ frequently I allow ’em to drink a Glass or two
‘ of Claret alone.

‘ To take off the Pain, I apply the following
‘ Balsam to the Part affected twice a day, to wit
‘ Morning and Evening, till the Pain abates or
‘ goes off. I order it to be used in the following
‘ manner: Let some of it be applied to the Part
‘ affected, and with a warm Hand be rubb’d in for
‘ a quarter of an hour; then apply a piece of soft
‘ brown Paper, and upon that Flannel-Cloths,
‘ three or four double. After using this two or
‘ three times, there will little Heats and Blisters
‘ arise on the Part, from which for the most part
‘ is discharg’d a very great quantity of acrid Se-
‘ rum. The Virtues of this Balsam are so great,
‘ especially in this Case, that it deserves to be
‘ written in Letters of Gold, and yet the Prepa-
‘ ration of it is most simple and easy, as all good
‘ Medicines are.

℞ *Olei*

℞ Olei Olivæ ℥viii, olei Vitrioli optimè rectificati ℥ij, optimè misceantur in Vase vitreo, collo aperto, & statim fiat Balsamum rubicundissimum.

‘ If the *Oleum Vitrioli* be not exactly well rectified and very strong, they will not mix; but if it be, they will immediately be converted into a Balsam as thick as Treacle, and after it has stood a Month or six Weeks, it will become of the Consistence of *Lucatully’s* Balsam, with a greyish Coat on the top. I have already communicated this to many People, and receiv’d thanks for it from several parts of *England*.

‘ Besides the foremention’d Balsam, the following *Lixivium* is an admirable thing; I have known it do wonders sometimes: But I am afraid it is not so much to be relied on as the Balsam is, though by the Use of it alone I have known *Gouts* of half a Year’s standing cured.

℞ Urinæ vaccæ ℥iv, bulliatur parum, tunc adde salis Marini ℥iij. & iterum bulliantur donec sal dissolvitur, cum hoc *Lixivio*, optimè foveantur Partes affectæ, relinquendo in partes pannum laneum calidum ter duplicatum, in *Lixivio* madefacto & Liquore cum manibus fortiter expresso.

‘ Let this be repeated Morning and Evening, till the Pain is abated and gone.

‘ For near these two Years I have not at all used the *Lixivium*, but always relied either on the Balsam, or one of the following Medicines: And to People whose Skins are very tender, I have chose rather to use one of the following Medicines than the Balsam; and in some Cases where the Pains have been extreme, and the Tone of the Parts much spoiled, I have made use of both,

‘ both, first the Formentation, and then the Embrocation, applying afterwards a warm Flannel Cloth.

The Fomentation.

℞ *Flor. Sambuci, Chamomilla, an. m. j. flor. Anthos, Lavendula an. mss. Aceti Vini albi, vel Pomor. Sylvest. ℥iij. Infunde clausè & calidè in vase terreo vitriato, per horas tres, & coletur; cum Colaturâ foveantur partes affectæ bis in die, superponendo pannum laneum.*

The Embrocation.

℞ *Ol. Vitrioli Dulc. per digest. fact. ℥j, spir. Vini Com. ℥viij. m. f. mixtura, cum quâ embrocentur partes affectæ manè & serò, superponendo pannum laneum.*

‘ Neither of these Things will relax the Tone
‘ of the Parts, nor repel the Morbifick Matter;
‘ but will mortify and correct the one, and confirm the Tone and Texture of the other.

‘ Till the Violence of the Pain is somewhat abated, I every Night give an Opiate, either in a Liquid or Solid Form. As for instance.

℞ *Aq. Lactis Alex. ℥ij, Mirabilis ℥iij, Syr. Papaveris rhead. ℥ss, Laud. Liquid. gutt, xx, xxx, vel xl. Ol. sulphur. per Camp. gut. aliquot ad acidum saporem, f. Haust. horâ somni assumend. vel.*

℞ *Theriac. Androm. ℥ij Tartar. Vitriol. ℥ss, Laud. Opiati gr. ij°. m. f. Bolus horâ somni assumend. vel.*

℞ *Diacodij ℥j, ℥ss, vel ℥ij, Olei Sulphur. per Camp. q. s. ad moderatam aciditatem, cap. horâ decubitus.*

‘ The Dose of Opiates may be greater or less,
‘ according as People have been accusom’d
‘ to

‘ to take them; for the more People have
‘ been us’d to take *Opiates*, the larger quan-
‘ tity they require.

‘ I use *Opiates* on no other score, than to gain
‘ time, to stupify and blunt the Senses, till other
‘ Medicines can take place: Tho’ very frequently,
‘ nay for the most part I have no occasion to use
‘ them at all.

‘ And if People will but be persuaded to omit
‘ the Use of them, their Fits will always be the
‘ shorter; and when they are off, will leave them
‘ much more vigorous and strong than when *Opiates*
‘ are used. And therefore of late I have with all
‘ imaginable Industry endeavour’d totally to avoid
‘ them.

‘ During this time I forbid the Use of Milk;
‘ and all Milk Meats, they being very pernicious;
‘ but once a Day I allow a moderate Meal of any
‘ Meat of very easy Digestion, if their Stomachs
‘ crave it: Otherwise order them to eat sometimes
‘ Water-gruel, or Barly-gruel, and sometimes
‘ Chicken or Veal-Broth; and in every Poringer
‘ of either of the said Things, instead of common
‘ Salt, to put about a quarter of an Ounce of
‘ *Cremor Tartar*, [or else acidulate it with Juice of
‘ Orange or Lemmon.]

‘ When the Violence of the Distemper is in some
‘ measure abated, which in some People will be in
‘ a short time, in others a longer, according as
‘ Nature is more or less debilitated, and the Mat-
‘ ter of the Distemper more or less: I say, when
‘ the Violence of the Distemper is abated, then
‘ the foregoing Method must be alter’d, and the
‘ following Medicines us’d.

℞ *Lapidis Hematitidis* ʒss, *Cremoris Tartari* ʒj, *Olei*
Sassaph. gut. 40. m. f. *Pulv.* in 40r chartulas distribu-
G end.

end. cap. j, primò manè & horâ decubitus, in Cochlear.
Syrup. Balsam. superbbiendo Haust. infusionis sequentis.

℞ Rad. Bardana siccat. ℥iv, Baccar. Juniper. ℥iij,
sem. Bardana, Fraxini an. ℥iij, Lign. Sassafr. ℥ss,
Aq. Font. bullientis ℔v. Infunde clause & Calidè per
horas sex, & Coletur. Colatura singul. libris duabus,
adde Elix. Sulphuris ℥ij, m.

‘ These Things will cause gentle and easy Eva-
‘ cuations, correct the Luxuriant Alkalious
‘ Particles, and confirm the Tone of the Parts.

‘ Instead of the foregoing Medicines, I sometimes
‘ give these which follow.

℞ Cinnabaris fact. com. optimè levigat. ℥ss, Gum.
Guaiaci ℥iij, Conf. Cynosbati ℥iss, Syr. sambuci q. s. f.
Elect. cap. quant. Nucis Moschata primò manè & horâ
decubitus, superbibendo ℥vj vel viij Infusionis sequentis.

℞ Rad. Bardana siccat. ℥iv, Baccar. Juniperi ℥iij,
Bardana, Fraxini an. ℥ss, Ligni Sassafr. ℥vj, Aq.
font. bull. ℔v, Infunde clause & calidè per horas sex,
& Coletur, Colatura libris duabus adde sp. Ligni
Guaiaci optimè rectificati ℥ss, m.

‘ These Medicines as well as the former, will
‘ cause plentiful and easy Evacuations, without
‘ weakning the Patient, or pausing the Appetite;
‘ and tho’ sometimes they work briskly, yet at
‘ the same time the Patient will gather Strength.
‘ Now according to the best of my Observations,
‘ all that is requir’d in the Cure of a Chronical Di-
‘ stemper, is to cause plentiful Evacuations with-
‘ out weakning the Patient; which intention the
‘ foresaid Medicines will seldom or never fail to
‘ answer: And I do not question, but whoever
‘ shall

‘ shall think fit to try them, will find I say no
‘ more than Truth.

‘ If the Medicines given at the first beginning
‘ of a Fit, do at any time make People go to Stool
‘ too often, I then order them to drink freely of
‘ an Infusion of Oak-bark, which greatly confirms
‘ the Tone of Animal Substances. As,

Rx Cort. *Querci siccata. & contusa.* ℥iv, Aq. Font.
tepid. ℔iij, Infunde per Noctem, & Coletur.

This last Method differs from that follow’d in the former Prescriptions, almost as much as Night does from Day, or Black from White: Yet some Physicians cry up the one, some the other, and some again say (which is very probable) that neither of them is worth a Farthing. From hence the Reader may judge of the great certainty the Learned Physicians are in as to the Method of curing the *Gout*.

If I should leave off here, and insinuate as if there were no other Methods known by which the *Gout* has been cured, I should wrong the Faculty of Physick. *Salmuth* tells us of one that was Cured by a fright: The Patient having his Feet and Hands cover’d with a *Poultice* made of *Turnips*, *Flower* and *Milk*, and being left in his Chair in a low Room, was, whilst his Servants were all gone into the Garden, assaulted by a *Sow*, who, finding the Door open, and invited by the smell of the *Cataplasm*, came to devour it; and striving to do so, flung the sick Man; and the Chair to the Ground, and put him into such a fright, that our Author tells us, that very Day his Pains decreas’d, and continu’d lessening by degrees, till at length they wholly left him, without ever returning to trouble him again.

Petrus Borellus advises the *Gouty* Patient to let young Puppies lie with him : For, says he, they'll contract the Distemper, and the Patient will be wonderfully reliev'd.

I have met with two other Methods, which 'tis pity to deprive the Reader from. The first is of one *Lewis Noel*, a Surgeon of *Geneva*, that had long been afflicted with the *Gout*. When he was laid up of a Fit; comes in a Madwoman, who catching hold of his Feet, hit one against the other, with all the Strength she had, till some Body came to his Assistance and turn'd her out of Doors; he never afterwards was troubled with the *Gout*, tho' he liv'd till he was almost Ninety. The other is what *Michael Doringius*, a Surgeon of *Breslaw* relates of a Physician who was a *Knight*, and bargain'd with an Inn-keeper his Host for 300 Florens to Cure him of the *Gout*. Having taken a Note under the Patient's Hand, the Doctor orders him to set his Feet upon a Block; and having his Servants, two or three stout Fellows by to hold him in that Posture, he takes a Hammer, and with half a dozen good Spikes, nails him to the Block; When he had done, he took Horse and left his Host a roaring. The *Knight* in the mean time enquir'd how Matters went, and after three Years, when he heard the *Gout* was not return'd, came back and demanded his Pay.

Such merry Stories as these are plentifully intermix'd with the Labours of the Learned, but he that looks for Things really Beneficial and to be depended upon in the Distemper I speak of, must go without them; which has made me often wonder why the Gentlemen of the Faculty should take it so heinously if any Body dares meddle with the *Gout*, that is no graduate Physician, and wants University Education: When they are conscious, that as to the Cure of the *Gout*, none of them has

writ any thing to the Purpose. The Observations indeed of the Sagacious Dr. *Musgrave*, are (as I have said once already) very useful in the Practice of Physick: To give him his due, it must be confess'd, that without meddling with frivolous Disputes, either in refuting the *Systems* of others, or trumping up new ones of his own, he has had *Nature* for his Guide, and *Reason* for his Companion, and that his Prescriptions are every where pertinent and judicious; but then he has said nothing of the *Gout* as it is a primary Distemper, and only treated of those *Gouts* that are either Symptomata-tick or Anomalous: That is, when the *Gout* succeeds and has its Origin from any other Distemper, he teaches what regard in the Cure of it must be had to that Distemper from which it was deriv'd; and when on the other Hand the *Miasma Arthriticum* invades the Trunk it self, and there personates various Distempers, he gives Directions how to chase it from within, and make it return upon the Joints, which latter, instead of *Curing*, is the Art of *Procuring*, or giving the *Gout*; and what the ingenious Dr. *Baynard* says of Dr. *Musgrave*, That he has said of the *Gout* all that can be said of it, can in my Opinion admit of no other Interpretation, than that the primary *Gout*, of which he has not spoke one Syllable, is not to be meddled with, because among the most candid Physicians it is counted Incurable.

Honest Dr. *Sydenham*, who knew and had both read and felt as much of the Distemper as any Body, ingenuously confess'd, that he could not Cure it. And there are but few Authors to be met with that have treated of the *Gout*, in whom to your Comfort you shall not find the known *Hexameter* with which I shall conclude this Chapter.

Tollere Nodosam nescit Medicina Podagram.

*All th' Art of Physick cannot rout,
The stubborn Pains of Knotty Gout.*

CHAP. VI.

Of Curing the Gout, by the Moxa.

ANother uncommon Method of Curing the Gout, which, because it has some reality in it, I thought deserv'd a Chapter by it self, is Burning. *Hippocrates* was the first Inventor of it; for in his *Treatise of Diseases*, he says; ‘ If the Pain continues obstinate in any one Part, and cannot be expell’d by Medicines; in whatever Part it is, you must burn it with Crude Flax. And speaking of the Gout, he says, ‘ The Disease is indeed long and grievous, but not mortal; but if the Pain remains in the Toes, burn them above the Joints with Crude Flax. This uncouth Practice had been neglected many Ages, and was almost buried in oblivion among the *Europeans*; but in *China* and *Japan*, it seems this Practice is, and has been time out of Mind in great repute, not only in the Gout, but all manner of Distempers; and the first that reviv’d it among us, was one *Herman Busschof*, of whom I have made mention in some of the foregoing Chapters. This Gentleman was a Minister at *Batavia*, in the Service of the *Dutch East-India Company*. He was much troubled with the Gout, and having in one Fit, pass’d five or six Weeks in such excessive Pains in his Knees and Feet, that in spite of his Teeth, they sometimes extorted Tears from his Eyes, and keeping him

him in a manner always sleepless, consum'd his Flesh as well as Strength; an *Indian* Doctress freed him in less than half an Hour from his Torments, by burning the Place affected with a certain *Indian* Moss. He counted the Benefit he had receiv'd extraordinary, and having found by many Experiments made there, that the Operation still met with the same Success, he wrote a *Treatise* of it in *Dutch*, for the Use of his Country Men, and sent over a quantity of the Moss, and some Matches to kindle it with, to his Son at *Utrecht*, to be sold, if any would be persuaded to use them.

This *Treatise*, which has been translated into *English* near forty Years ago, gives a very particular Account of that Operation, and tells us, that in the *Indies*, they have a soft and downy or woolly Substance, made by a very skilful Preparation of a certain dried *Herb*, which when rightly prepared is like Cotton, and by them call'd *Moxa*; this Down with their Thumb and Fore-finger they form into a Pellet of the bigness of a Pea, but of a Pyramidical Figure. Some put the *Cotton* of the purify'd *Herb* in a Paper, and roll it with their flat Palm, that so the Wool may be close and equally Compact; from which they cut pieces about twice as big as a Writing-Pen: These they lay on the Place affected, (when they have wet it with their Finger moisten'd with their *Spittle*) and with little *Aromatick* Sticks made for that Purpose, set Fire to them; for the Matter is easily Combustible, and the *Chinois* carry it about them in Tinder-Boxes. When this little Turret is fir'd, the gentle Flame turns it not all to Ashes, but leaves a little Segment of it in the Base; for tho' the greatest part of the Moisture that is drawn out of the suffering Place, flies away in fume, yet it is impossible but some of it must be suck'd up into the burning Pellet, which so moistens it, that it cannot be all converted into
Ashes,

Ashes, therefore it draws the *Epidermis* with no Violence, nor raises any Blisters, but causes only a little grey Spek, tho' the Pellet be divers times successively kindled upon the same Place. The burning of one Pellet lasts about the time of telling fifty.

After the Operation, they lay a little beaten Leek upon the *Eschar*, and over that one of the outermost Coats of the same Leek moistened in the Mouth, which like a Plaister keeps the beaten Leek upon the *Eschar*: This being taken off together some 24 Hours after, more or less, you'll see the little *Eschar* dispos'd to Separation, appearing to have round about it a Circle of clear Skin, which sometimes also rises to a Wound or Blister. Great Care must be taken that no severe Means, or any force be used to these *Eschars*; for great Pain may thereby be occasion'd, and therefore they use nothing but warm Plantain-leaves to make the *Eschars* fall off, patiently staying till they fall off by that means, and the Part heal up; which is effected by prudent Nature it self if it be for the good of the Part affected: Even when the *Eschar* seems to be loose and hangs double in the little Wound it is not to be touch'd, for the longer the Wounds remain open, the greater Benefit they are of; not that they are to be chang'd into Issues by putting in Peas or Pellets. They keep them open by laying warm Plantain-leaves upon them with the rough side to the Skin. Note, that the Leaves must not be warm'd in Water, but by laying them on glowing Wood-coals, where they must lie till you see them begin to fall in; then they are to be taken off, and roll'd stiff together betwixt the Palms of the Hands, and then to be unroll'd again and displaced, being yet warm and moist, and so laid on the *Eschar*: continuing this till it be time to heal up the Wound; when the Leaf being prepar'd again after the former manner is to be laid on with the smooth

smooth side to the Skin: For as the rough side of the Leaves keeps open, so the other heals the Wound. Fresh Leaves are to be put on twice in 24 Hours, and kept from falling off by some Bandage or other; or if the burnt Places cannot endure the Use of Bandage, a Plaister of *Diapalma* may be laid over the Leaves to keep 'em upon the Eschar.

Tho' these Directions are very plain, no Body ought to undertake this Operation, but such as are well qualified for it. The Operator must not be of an unweildy Body, have a good sight, steady and dry, no trembling nor sweaty Hands, for else he will not be able to give the Pellets their due Shape. He ought exactly to know the very Seat of the *Gouty* Pain, without which the Operation is for the most part fruitless, and if the Application be made but an inch wide from the very Part that is in Pain, it would not have the desired Effect. Where the Pain is very violent, and the *Gouty* Limb by the afflux'd Humour not much swell'd, the Inflammation manifestly directs to the very Seat of the Pain; and in this Case one may easily see the genuine *Gout* or Wind Tumour, by taking notice of a little Distension, and standing out of the Skin, appearing like a small Pustule; on the extent Head of which the burning is to be perform'd. But as the Seat of the *Gout* is not so visible where Persons are first attack'd with the *Gout*, and those also that are subject to a great afflux of Humours, it will behove the Operator to be very cautious in finding out the true Seat of the Pain, that so he may not put the Patient to unnecessary Torment. And therefore he must with his Forefinger, feel so long upon, or about the Place where the Patient complains of most Pain, until by the Patient's greatest Sense he finds out the true Place; which to avoid all Mistake, he much touch again

and again and so perform the Operation accordingly.

The Preparation of this *Moxa* is kept as a great Secret in the *Indies*, says *Busschhof*, and is not to be made in *Europe*, but might be sent for by the Directors of the *East-India* Company out of *China*. The same he says of the *Aromatick* Sticks, which yield a very pleasing Smell when kindled. They are very useful to keep the Patients and Standers-by, as well as the Operator from the ungrateful and offensive Smell which the *Gouty* Damps emit, when by the burning *Moxa* they are forc'd to evaporate; especially if it be consider'd what ill the Smell of such stinking Vapours may cause in our Bodies.

The best *Moxa*, is of a fine grey Colour, well scented, and as soft as fine Wool; which last good Quality is chiefly to be minded, for when it is very soft, it is always good, tho' the Colour and Scent should be somewhat decay'd; but that which is hard and stubborn is unfit for burning.

This is in Substance what *Herman Busschhof* has left us concerning the *Indian Moxa*, and the Operation to be perform'd with it; which has been since, for the greatest part confirm'd by Dr. *Ten-Rhine*, a *Dutch* Physician, (of whom likewise I have spoke before, and) who after long Travels thro' *China* and *Japan*, wrote a *Treatise* on the same Subject; in which he says, That to make the *Moxa*, the *Indians* take the Tops or smaller Leaves of Broad-leav'd *Mugwort*; when they are dry they rub 'em, and casting away the Stalks and other Rubbish, keep only the Down for Use.

No sooner was this new Method of Cure publish'd, but it was made use of by several Persons in *England* and *Holland*, not altogether without Success, and among others, Sir *William Temple* when he resided at the *Hague*, tried the Experiment upon

on himself; as may be seen in his *Miscellanies*, p. 209. where he tells us, ‘ That when the Pain in his great Toe was very Violent, and he in five Days had not been able to stir his Foot, but as it was lifted, he was suddenly reliev’d by the *Moxa*, and walked half a dozen turns about the Room without Pain or Trouble, to the great Surprise of those that were about him as well as his own. As for the Pain (says he) of the burning it self, the first time is sharp, so that a Man may be allow’d to complain: I resolv’d that I would not, but that I would count to a certain Number as the best Measure how long it lasted. I told six-score and four as fast as I could; and when the Fire of the *Moxa* was out, all Pain and Burning was over. The second time was not near so sharp as the first, and the third a great deal less than the second. The Wound was not raw as I expected, but look’d only scorch’d and black; and I had rather endure the whole trouble of the Operation, than half a quarter of an hours Pain in the Degree I felt it the first whole Night.

The Gentleman from whom this is transcribed, gives an Account also how the *Moxa* remov’d a Fit of the *Gout* from Monsieur *Serinchamps*, the Duke of *Lorrain*’s Envoy then at the *Hague*, as likewise how, almost at the same time, one of his Maids, who was almost grown desperate with the Tooth-ach and want of sleep upon it, had been immediately cured by burning the *Moxa* upon the great Vein, under the Ear. But notwithstanding those Successes, the *Moxa*, whatever the Reason is, has never been in great Esteem among us: What Dr. *Sydenham* said of it, I think was very judiciously spoke. ‘ The burning of the Part affected (says he) may be useful for mitigating the Pain, the most spirituous Part of the Morbifick Matter cast off upon the Joints, being drawn out by it: But

the Benefit obtain'd by this Means, because it does not any way Cure Indigestion, the Antecedent Cause of the *Gout*, must needs be very short and fading, and to be used only when the *Gout* is beginning, for when the *Gout*, as it sometimes happens, is turn'd inwards, either by its long Continuance, or by an unseasonable and undue use of Medicines, and so afflicts the Patient rather with *Sickness*, *Gripes*, and a great many other Symptoms of this kind than with Pain, I suppose that no sober Man will think that Fire is to be used.

And that the Pain is not always remov'd so easily as it was in Sir *William Temple*, we may learn from *Herman Busschhof* himself, who suffer'd the Burning twenty times before the Pain was gone; and Dr. *Ten Rhinc*, who tells us the Burning in weaker Places is commonly reiterated three or four times; but in other Places, if the Patient be strong, and the Vapours lie deep; thirty, nay above fifty times.

C H A P. VII.

Of Specifics.

When the *Aristotelian* and other Schools had for many Ages captivated Man's Understanding, and given the Name of *Occult Quality* to every thing that was not obvious to their outward Senses, nothing certainly could be more charming to Men of Thought and Speculation than the *Cartesian* Philosophy, which by teaching Men how to form probable Conjectures about every thing observable in created Beings, gave them a delectable Insight into many mysterious Operations

ons of Nature. But such is the Condition of Mortals, that in this World there is no Good, but what has its opposite Evil; and this *Gayety* of Speculation, as well as *Freedom* of thinking, which should have only put Men upon the Search after Knowledge, the true end of Philosophy, have inspir'd many with so much Vanity, and such ridiculous Notions of the Strength and Self-sufficiency of their Reason, that forgetting the Shallowness of human Capacity, what they could not comprehend, they have often refused to admit as Fact, tho' they have seen it before their own Eyes.

It is this Self-conceit of Ingenious Men that has made so many deny the Existence of *Specifick* Medicines, even whilst they were receiving the Benefit of them; which made the great *Boyle*, (to humour the Idol of the Age, *Reasoning*) when he was convinc'd of the certainty of an Experiment, wrack his Invention for Methods after which it was possible that Nature might have acted in the Production of it, as knowing that the Speculative World would relish no Truth, unless it was likewise made palatable to their Reason.

But tho' the Illustrious *Chymist* I nam'd, has very ingeniously reconcil'd the Existence of *Specificks* to the *Mechanical* and *Corpuscular* Philosophy, and thinks that in time the Industry and Sagacity of Men, will be able to discover *Intelligible* Causes of most of those Qualities that now pass for *Occult*, and among them of many of the *Specifick* Virtues ascrib'd to Medicines; yet on the other hand he fears much, that Men will not be successful in tracing out the true and immediate Causes of those good Effects of some Remedies that depend upon such fine and uncommon Textures, and such latent and oddly guided Motions: But whether we can give Reasons for it or not; it is certain, that *Opium* generally causes Sleep; that a few Grains of *Cantharides* in-

wardly

wardly given, leaving other Parts unmolested, work upon the *Bladder* and *Urinary* Passages with an uncommon Force; and that the *Peruvian Bark* well administred, seldom fails of Curing intermitting Fevers.

What can be more unfathomable for our Understanding, than that a Drachm of such a stony Substance as *Ostiocolla* taken at the Mouth, should be of that Efficacy in the breeding of a *Callous* to soder together the Parts of a broken Bone? Yet this is so well attested by daily Experience, and the Writings of Eminent Men, that it would be a Folly to doubt of it. Nay so visible are the Effects of this Stone, that several, and among them that expert and judicious Surgeon, *Fabricius Hildanus*, give us a caution of using it but sparingly in young and vigorous Patients, lest it breed too great a *Callous*, of which there are some notable Instances. Now if after all this, a Man should refuse to administer this Stone to a Patient that wanted it, only because he did not understand which way the Medicine could reach the Bones, I think he ought to have his own broke.

‘ I do not (says the Sagacious *Boyle*) by a *Specifick* understand a Medicine that will Cure the Disease it is good for infallibly and in all Persons that take it, for I confess I never yet met with any such Remedy. Nor do I by *Specifick* understand a Medicine that, almost like a Charm, works only by some latent and unaccountable Property, without the Assistance of any known Quality; as *Purgative*, *Diuretick*, *Sudorifick*, &c. to be found in other Medicines; but by *Specifick* I mean in this Discourse such a Medicine as very often, if not most commonly does very considerably and better than ordinary Medicines, relieve the Patient, whether by quite curing, or much lessening his Disease, and which acts principally upon

‘ the

the Account of some Property or peculiar Virtue ; so that if it has any manifest Quality that is Friendly, yet the Good it does is greater than can reasonably be ascrib'd to the Degree it has of that manifest Quality, as *Hot, Cold, Bitter, Sudorifick, &c.*

Others speaking of *Specificks*, say, such a one comes under that Denomination, as has a peculiar Virtue against some one Disease, and answers all Indications of Cure, how differently soever circumstantiated with Symptoms, or how disguis'd soever under the Appearances of other Affects, yet the *Modus agendi* a Secret, as usually procuring no certain, or sometimes sensible Evacuation of the Morbifick Matter ; and that the asserting such or such a Medicine Cures *Specifically*, is in truth no more than to say, *it does it, because it does it.*

In some of the first of these few Pages, I hinted at a *Liquor* which I have found of stupendious Use in the Cure of the *Gout*. And having perform'd what I there promis'd, I shall now examine whether, according to the Definition, which the noble Author I nam'd last gives of *Specificks*, the Medicine I make use of may deservedly claim that Title or not ; assuring the Reader that I shall say nothing of it, but what by often reiterated Experiments I have known it to perform.

Every Fit of the *Gout*, is Natures Favour (tho' a bitter one) to the Patient, whereby she critically disburthens her self of those Peccant Humours heap'd up, which if retain'd would be injurious to the Body ; but as she can throw them no farther off than to the Extremities of the Joints, where having no Vent, they there display their Tyranny (to much less hurt than elsewhere) after a manner the Patient can best tell : Now what Medicine will incorporate with, and obtun'd in a friendly way, the Acrimony of those Humours so pent in, must neces-

necessarily appease their raging Impetuosity ; and if properly turn'd into another Channel, and evacuated when so diluted and overcome, not fail of bringing that Fit to a Period ; which is yet no more than helping Nature to do that, which of her self she is not able to perform either so surely or so quickly. For easing the Pains of the Gout, some are fond of outward Applications, and cry up this or that, as the best that can be ; but I always caution against them, remembering that *Axiom* in Physick, *When the Humours do affect a particular Part, the whole of 'em must be corrected ; else by applying a Remedy only to that Part, we shall drive the Humours to some other Place.*

And again, *We must not attempt the remedying of the Joints alone, without taking Care of the whole ; but note in general, that Externals often exasperate the Pain, and make the Malady the greater, although the Symptoms seem sometimes to abate.* We learn likewise by frequent Experience, that outward Means have made a fix'd Gout of a running one, and some of them have generated Knots in the Joints, which made Galen himself write, (and Fernelius has observ'd the same) that *Tophi are produced in the Gout from a glutinous and thick Humour, when the same is not digested by little and little, but dried altogether by the Violence of external Remedies.* The experienc'd Sydenham is of the same Opinion. *If any one (says he) enquires for external Remedies to ease the Pains of the Gout, I hitherto know none, tho' I have try'd many in my self and others, having been afflicted with that Distemper near 34 Years ; therefore let none impose upon themselves that way, for I confidently affirm, that the greatest part of those who have perish'd in the Gout, have not been so properly kill'd by the Disease, as by improper Applications of external Medicines.* And if any one will try by using them at the beginning, or progress of a Fit [the time he most wants them] he will

soon

soon perceive how fruitless they are, and how vain his Hopes.

Of such Prevalency is this Drink, that no sooner is the Blood, and consequently the Humours impregnated with it, but the Patient finds Ease: The most torturing Pains are alleviated by it, in three or four Hours, and the Fit totally remov'd in as few Days. All the sensible Operation it has is by Urine, with which the *Gouty* Humours are eliminated, so as to be sensibly perceiv'd by the Patient while he is drinking it.

It is an acceptable Medicine to take, and far from being nauseous or disagreeable to the Stomach, it pleasingly warms it, strengthens its Tone, defends and frees it from the *Gouty* Assaults, creates an Appetite, and helps Digestion. Dr. Sydenham says, ' Whatever assists Nature in duly performing
' her Offices, whether in comforting the Stomach
' that it may rightly concoct the Food; or the
' Blood, that it may assimilate the Chyle unto it;
' or the solid Parts, that they may the better convert to their proper Substance the Juices design'd
' for their Nourishment and Increase; or whatever preserves the various Organs of Excretion,
' and the Emunctories of the Body, in such a State
' as that they may be able to discharge duly and
' orderly the Excrements of each part, conduce to
' the answering the Intention of Cure, be the Method or Medicine what it will.

These Qualities, or at least most of them I am well satisfied the Medicine I recommend is endued with; for besides what I have said of it, it keeps the Body soluble, corroborates the Bowels, comforts and strengthens both Brain and Nerves, corrects, tempers, and sweetens all undue Sharpnesses of the Blood, preserves its Texture, and invigorates it when languid; and in fine, as it assists Nature in every due Secretion, cannot but be friendly to

to the *Animal* and *Vital* Functions. Here I expect that the Learned Methodist who is frighten'd at the Name of *Specifick*, will tell me that he cannot conceive how a *Diuretick* should have so many good Qualities besides. Him I shall answer in the Words of the *Experimental Philosopher* I often mention'd.

‘ I know, says he, there have been and are still
 ‘ *Dogmatical* Physicians, that upon the Principles as
 ‘ they pretend of the *School-Philosophy*, reject all
 ‘ Medicinal Virtues that they think not reducible
 ‘ to manifest Qualities. But of such *Galen* some-
 ‘ where justly complains that they deny Matters of
 ‘ Fact, or assign very incompetent Causes of the
 ‘ Effects they pretend to explain. And for my part
 ‘ I am so far from believing these Men capable of
 ‘ giving sufficient Reasons of the more hidden Pro-
 ‘ perties of Medicines, that I am not apt to think
 ‘ them able by their Principles to give clear and
 ‘ particular Explications, even of the more easie
 ‘ and familiar Virtues of Simples.

‘ I do not pretend to trace the Medicine I speak
 of thro’ every Cranny it passes, nor to account for
 every part of its Operation. Yet I must say, that
 it should perform what is said of it, is no Mystery,
 when the Principles of it are consider’d and compar’d
 with those of the Disease. But it is for this reason
 that I call it a *Specifick*: I am satisfied, that
 the Effects of it are known by many, and so well
 attested that the most Scrupulous shall not be able
 reasonably to doubt of it, as I shall shew hereafter.
 The Violence of the Pain to those that take it, seldom
 lasts an hour after the first two or three Doses,
 and if they continue it, no Fit above four Days at
 furthest. What I say here, is of them that use it
 whilst the Fit is upon them. But as the *Gout* generally
 gives some warning of its Approach beforehand,
 if a Patient be provided with this Medicine,
 and takes it in time, he need never fear a Fit; I

don’t

don't mean that it will hinder Nature in her kind Intent, (which is stopping the Fit, the most dangerous Attempt imaginable) but assist her so, as that those very Humours which she is discharging her self of, are as fast as they are separated, turn'd off by Urine, which would otherwise rush into the Joints; and if by that means the Patient is safely secur'd from the great Pain and Fatigue the Fit would have occasion'd, with the same or greater Advantage to his Health and Limbs than his enduring it could be to him, I think it is doing him a great piece of Service. Gentlemen when they are at ease, can seldom be persuaded to the Use of Medicines; but whoever continues this Drink whilst he is free from the Assaults of this Distemper, or drinks it but for a certain number of Days, Spring and Fall, shall find that the Invasions of the *Gout*, are not only retarded and kept off, but the rooted Disposition in the Body, tending to breed *Goutish* Humours, and a natural Weakness of the Joints are gradually and perfectly taken away by it, Dropsical and other concomitant Disorders from a Blood rendred languid by the Disease prevented, and a much better and more lasting State of Health and Vigour establish'd.

In strong People, and where the *Gout* is recent or of no long standing, what I said last will be soon perceiv'd: But in those where the Distemper is inveterate, and seems to convert all the Nourishment into the *Gouty* Matter, to have the same Effects, longer time is required, and not only a more constant Use of the Medicine, but likewise a regularity in Diet, or at leastwise Abstinence from Intemperance are to be complied with; it not being to be supposed, that when the Disease is so grown to a Habit, the Constitution of the Body can be chang'd, and the whole Man renew'd by a slight and momentary Alteration of the Blood and

Humours: In these antiquated *Gouts* may well be applied, what Sir *William Temple*, who, tho' no profess'd Physician, was a Man of universal Learning as well as sublime Sense, thought of the *Gout* in general, that nothing was so proper to Cure it, as what had Power to change the whole Mass of Blood; and whoever, says he, thinks of having that done without great Temperance also, had better endure it with Patience. *Rheumatisms* and wandering *Gouts*, as they proceed in all Probability, from the same Cause, are eradicated after the same manner, without the help of Bleeding that has been fatal to so many; it is likewise impossible but this Drink must be of singular Use in many of those *Symptomack* and *Anomalous Gouts*, of which Dr. *Musgrave* has treated so largely; because in mixing it self with the Blood and Juices, it attacks where-ever it meets with the Wheyish Humour, the *Fomes Morbi*, and washing it away by degrees, in time wholly clears the Body from it. I know there are many, who following the vulgar Opinion, that the *Gout* is an incurable Distemper, will believe what I say is impossible: But to convince those Unbelievers, I shall once more quote the Noble *Boyle*, that diligent Searcher after Truth, who in his *Experimental Philosophy* gives us the following Account.

‘ As incurable a Disease (says he) as the radical *Gout* is thought to be, (especially in Patients not very temperate) and as tedious a Course of Physick as one would expect to be requisite to the Cure of it in case it can be Cured; yet I have been several times visited by an honest Merchant of *Amsterdam*, who was there noted for his Wealth and Skill in *Arte Tinctoriâ*. This Man ten or twelve Years ago, had been for a long time so tormented with the *Gout*, both in Hands and Feet, that his Fits would sometimes vex and confine him for a great part of the Year, and not
‘ leave

‘ leave him without Knots, as unwelcome Pledges
‘ of their Return. But once that he was tortur’d
‘ to a degree that made him much pitied, one
‘ came and inform’d him of an *Empirick*, who had
‘ receiv’d from a great *Chymist* that had lodg’d in
‘ his House, a *Secret*, with which he had already
‘ thoroughly cured many in a short time; where-
‘ upon sending for this Person, and offering him
‘ any thing for some Relief, the other refused to
‘ take above ten Crowns, which as it seems was
‘ the usual Rate for the Cure, and would not re-
‘ ceive that neither, till the Reality of it had been
‘ evinc’d, by the Patients continuing above six
‘ Months well; and accordingly with a very few
‘ Doses of a certain *Powder* and *Tincture*, the Mer-
‘ chant was quickly freed, not only from his *Pains*,
‘ but from his *Gouty Tophi*. And tho’ he indulg’d
‘ himself the Drinking of *Rhenish Wine* very freely,
‘ yet he never had a Fit since, as himself assur’d
‘ me one Morning when for Exercise sake he walk-
‘ ed five or six Miles to see me; adding, that the
‘ Man that cured him dying suddenly, he never
‘ could discover what the *Secret* was wherewith so
‘ many had been freed from a Disease that does so
‘ often mock the Skill of the greatest Doctors.

What I promise of my Medicine falls far short
of this; for what is taken of it whilst the Pati-
ent is afflicted, serves only to ease the Pain, and
remove the present Fit; to retard the ensuing
Fits, and free the Patients of the *Gouty* Disposition,
requires a more reiterated Use of it after the Fits
are over as well as when the Patients labour under
them: Neither have I any Examples yet that it
has cured any, where the *Gout* has been so knotty
and inveterate as that of the *Dutch* Merchant above-
mention’d; I mean as to the removing or dissol-
ving of the *Nodes* themselves, for I have had In-
stances already, that it has taken off the Fits in
those

those that had *Tophi* equally as in others that had them not; and I do affirm, that those who have the knotty *Gout* already, will not grow worse, or have more *Tophi*, if they drink my Specifick as directed: I am not so vain as to believe that it will feelingly and visibly dissolve the *Tophous* Swellings, (which *Willis* says, *he that engages to do does but expose himself*) yet I have good reason to think that they will upon a Continuance of drinking it, by degrees waste and grow less; and the more I consider the Nature of it, the more I am induc'd to hope it may in that particular, upon a sedulous Use of it, do beyond what either my self, or those that shall take it may be aware of, especially if Patients would comply with what has been said of Temperance before, and duly consider what so great a Judge in this Distemper as *Dr. Sydenham* was, said of it when it was arriv'd to the highest Degree, *viz.* ‘Whate-
 ‘ ver Method is taken for it, as it is a chronick
 ‘ Disease, whose Cause having pass’d into an Ha-
 ‘ bit, to the subverting and destroying the pristine
 ‘ and natural Oeconomy of the Body, especially
 ‘ where the Patient hath indulg’d himself in Sur-
 ‘ feiting and Drunkenness, neglected his wonted
 ‘ Exercises, and is worn out by Sloth and Idleness,
 ‘ or by hard Study, or continual and intense
 ‘ Thinking, or by some other Errors of Life, must
 ‘ be used constantly and daily with the greatest
 ‘ Diligence; for the preternatural Humours that
 ‘ are heap’d up, and arriv’d to the highest Degree,
 ‘ do so confound all, soften the Flesh, and weaken
 ‘ the Joints, that when they break out, they rea-
 ‘ dily receive the Humours that fall on them; and
 ‘ that he that endeavours to drive it away by this
 ‘ or that Remedy or Regimen now and then used,
 ‘ labours in vain; because as the Habit is chiefly
 ‘ founded, and consists as well in the Weakness of
 ‘ all the Digestions, as in the want of the natural
 ‘ Strength

' Strength of the particular Parts, both of them
 ' must be provided against, in order to restore
 ' them gradually to their former State; and to
 ' perform this fully and perfectly, may not seem
 ' possible, as any Habit is difficultly changed, espe-
 ' cially in old People, yet the Cure is to be endea-
 ' vour'd as much as the Strength and Age will per-
 ' mit, and the nearer or further off from this Mark
 ' the Patient is, he will more or less avoid the
 ' Tyranny of the *Gout*; nor can this Intention be
 ' answer'd altogether by Medicine, unless regard
 ' be had likewise to Diet, and those other things
 ' call'd Non-Naturals, such Persons as think it
 ' may, will be most certainly deceiv'd.

But tho' a most antiquated *Gout* may perhaps
 not be remov'd by it, without strict regularity,
 and almost constant keeping to it. What I can
 trust to, and the Patient may depend upon is this,
 that whether the *Gout* be inveterate or not, the
 Medicine will certainly mitigate the Pain, and re-
 move the Fits, and do the same thing over and
 over again whenever they return, whether from a
 Debauch or otherwise, with this Consolation, that
 by the Change it every time makes on the Blood
 and other Juices, the succeeding Fits grow still less
 and less, as well as return seldomer, and the Pains
 dwindle away without the least detriment to the
 Constitution; and for this Reason alone, if it
 could do nothing else, I think it an admirable Re-
 medy, that justly deserves the Name of a *Specifick*
 in the *Gout*.

The *Peruvian Bark* takes off the Fit of an *Ague*,
 and if duly repeated, it wholly cures the Patient;
 but this does not secure him for the future; if he
 gets an *Ague* again, he must again take the *Bark*,
 and it will cure him as before; the same I assert of
 my Medicine in the *Gout*; and if one be a *Specifick*,
 why not the other?

What-

Whatever Man can say, nothing is so convincing as Matter of Fact, and therefore I would here leave off and refer the Reader to the *Testimonies* of those that have tried the Medicine: But that I cannot forbear furnishing him with one Argument more to silence the *snarling Methodists* that might persuade him against the *Specifick* I recommend. It is nothing but a Quotation from the candid *Sydenham*, who labour'd under this Distemper so many Years. Having said that he was not possess'd of any *Specifick* against the *Gout*, he tells us: 'Tho', by my
 ' long Course of thinking I am induc'd to believe
 ' that such a Remedy will be some time or other
 ' found out; and when it happens to be, it will
 ' expose the Ignorance of the *Dogmatical*, and then
 ' it will appear how much they are deceiv'd in the
 ' Knowledge of the *Essences of Diseases*, and in the
 ' Medicines they use for them; a plain Instance
 ' whereof we have in the Discovery of the *Peru-*
 ' *vian Bark*, the best *Specifick* for *Agues*. For how
 ' many Ages were the Wits of the most diligent
 ' Men exercised in finding out the Cause of *Agues*,
 ' whereby every one adapted a Practice best agree-
 ' ing to the *Theory* he had framed? But how those
 ' ways of Cure were able to defend the *Theorems*,
 ' is manifest from those Things whereof we have
 ' yet a fresh Remembrance, in which placing the
 ' various Species of Intermittents, in the various
 ' Humours abounding in the Body, they were
 ' wont to direct the Method of Cure to the Alter-
 ' ation and Evacuation of those Humours: But
 ' how unsuccessfully they manag'd it, the ill Suc-
 ' cess of their Endeavours, but especially the hap-
 ' pier Use of the *Jesuits Bark* makes manifest; by
 ' the help whereof now, not regarding these *Hu-*
 ' *mours*, nor *Diet*, or *Regimen*, by only observing
 ' a due Method of giving the *Bark*, we do the Busi-
 ' ness effectually, and scarce ever fail, unless the
 ' Sick

' Sick be unnecessarily kept in Bed whilst it is
' used: Which notwithstanding that Inconveni-
' ence, the Fever being heighten'd by the Heat of
' the Bed, so great is the Virtue of the *Bark*, the
' Sick is most commonly cured by it.

C H A P. VIII.

Instances of Cures perform'd.

FOR the Good and Benefit of such Persons as
are afflicted with the *Gout*; This is to certify,
that I *Peter Varenne*, Bookseller, at the *Seneca's*
Head near *Somerset-House* in the *Strand*, was seiz'd
with an Hereditary *Gout* about the Age of 30, which
afflicted me more and more for near 10 Years, and
used to lay me up for several Weeks together 8 or
10 times in a Year, without getting any Relief,
tho' I tried all that I could hear of, and all to no
Purpose, rather worse. About three Years ago I
was taken with a very violent Fit, that held me
for five Weeks together, so that I was not able to
stir a Limb, or suffer so much as the Sheet to lye
upon them; the Pain and Swelling being so very
terrible and torturing as almost distracted me; at
last I heard of a Drink prepar'd by Mr. *John Mar-*
ten, Surgeon, in *Hatton-Garden*, I had it, and drank
of it according to his Direction, and in a few Hours
it gave me such wonderful Ease as cannot be ex-
press'd; I could after having drank half the Dose,
sleep and stir my Limbs, and in a few Days after it
wholly remov'd the Fit, so that nothing remain'd
but Weakness, by the Humours lying so long,
which in a little while after came to rights, as that
I was able to follow my Business; so that I do real-
ly believe the Drink is not to be match'd for its

Excellency, or that any thing in the World can more safely and speedily relieve. And at any time when I find the *Gout* is coming I betake my self to the Drink, and the Fit is immediately gone, so that I have not had since I used it what may be call'd a Fit; for before I used this Drink, the Pains would fly from Joint to Joint, that if I was eas'd in one Part, I was in Torture in another, and very often in all my Limbs at once, so that no Part was free; but since my using of this Drink; wherever the Pain seiz'd me it left me; and I do sincerely believe, that whoever shall take it will never be confin'd a Day with the *Gout*; I knowing several People that have experienc'd the same as well as my self. The Truth of all herein-mention'd, I am ready to testify upon Oath, whenever it is needful for any ones Satisfaction, as witness my Hand, *November* the 10th, 1712.

Peter Varenne.

FOR the good of those alike afflicted, I *John Sayer* of *Bidlefsden* in the County of *Bucks*, Esq; do Certify, That having signs of the *Gout's* coming upon me for about a Week, which grew more and more, till at length I was in great Pain, and could scarce set my Legs to the Ground without the help of Crutches, that I expected to be laid up for two or three Months together, as I was last Fall of the Leaf, and used to be twice or thrice in a Year; but being inform'd of the Success of a Drink that *Mr. Marten* in *Hatton-Garden*, Surgeon, gives for the *Gout*, I sent my Man for it on *Saturday* the 17th of this Instant *January*, about Noon, and drank of it as he directed, and had wonderful Ease by it before I went that Night to Bed, and slept well, which I could not before; the next Day all Pain was gone, and I could walk about my Chamber

Chamber without Crutches, and the Day following I went Abroad, and have had not the least Appearance of a Fit since, but been as hearty, lively and brisk, with a good Appetite, &c. as ever in my Life, and all owing to that Excellent Drink, which upon all like Occasions I shall never be without: The Truth of which I will at any time make Affidavit, as witness my Hand this 26th of January, 1712-13.

John Sayer.

Note, This Gentleman since his giving me this Certificate, being unfortunately kill'd; his Footman James Terry, that he sent to me for the Drink, can and will inform any Person of its Success, and may be heard of at Mr. Morgan's a Haberdasher of Small-Ware, at the Nag's-Head and Black-Boy in the Old-Baily, within two or three Doors of Ludgate-Hill, where his Master lodg'd. Col. Salisbury in Ball-Court in the Old-Baily can also testify the same.

One Mr. *Tho. Bennett* living near the Church at *Greenwich*, a Person that I never to my Knowledge saw in my Life, sent me a Letter on *Wednesday* the 21st of *January* last, that he was seiz'd violently, and (using his own Words) to the Purpose with the *Gout*; I sent him my Drink the next Day, which he drank as I directed, and on the 28th following he sends me another Letter with the Certificate here-under enclos'd. Sir, *I can't but acknowledge that I have found more Benefit by your Drink than by all the Medicines I ever took for these 12 Years past, in its carrying off the Pains of the Gout, which are generally with me very violent; it has carry'd off the Pain out of my Stomach, &c.*

THIS is to Certify, That I *Thomas Bennett* of *Greenwich* in *Kent*, have been afflicted with a radicated *Gout* many Years, and had very severe

Fits thereof, and being lately seiz'd with a very violent Fit, which extremely tortur'd me, and affected my Stomach as well as my Joints, and hearing of a Drink prepar'd by Mr. *Marten*, Surgeon, in *Hatton Garden*, I had it, which after I had drank of it as he directed, gave me perfect Ease in a few Hours, and carry'd away by Urine, the *Gouty* Humour from my Stomach, as well as Joints, that I never met with any Medicine that did me any thing like the Good that it did me, and which I cannot but acknowledge in Justice to the Medicine; and hope upon continuing of it, it may in time clear me of the *Gouty* Humour, as witness my Hand this 28th of *January*, 1712-13.

Tho. Bennett.

FOR publick Good, I *John Noden* in *Richbell Court* in *Red-Lyon-Street* in *Holbourn*, do declare and certify, That I was in violent Torture with the *Gout*, in the great Joint of my great Toe, which was also very red and much swell'd, and upon my drinking a Liquor I got from one Mr. *Marten* a Surgeon in *Hatton-Garden*, I was perfectly eased after a few Doses drinking it, that the Pain was gone, and the Swelling asswaged; and had I not been oblig'd at the fourth Days drinking it to walk abroad about my Affairs, I had sooner recover'd the full Use and Strength of my Foot, and do recommend it as a most wonderful Medicine, and declare, that I never could get any thing like it, for I was used always to be laid up for Weeks together in great Pain with the *Gout* before I met with this Drink, and now don't expect ever to be laid up a Day, in witness whereof I here set my Hand the 14th of *January*, 1712-13.

John Noden.

On *Thursday* the 13th of *November* last, I was sent for about Noon to one Mr. *Thompson*, the Master of the *George-Inn* in *High-Holbourn*, whom I found in great Pain with the *Gout* in one of his Legs, that had held him several Days, and not able to set it to the Ground; I sent him my Drink in the Evening, which was as soon as I could get it ready, happening then to have none prepar'd. He began to drink of it about eight or nine that Night; I went to see him the next Day in the Evening, and found him at Ease, playing at Tables by the Fire. He would have paid me for it then, but not willing to hinder him, I bid him let it alone, and I would call a *Monday* following, which I did, and found him below Stairs in the Kitchen, from whence cross a Yard he came walking to me to the Room behind the Bar, where he paid me for it, and drank part of a Pint of Wine with me.

THIS is to Certify those it may concern, That I *Richard Davis*, Butcher at *Cow-Cross*, was taken on *Wednesday* being *Christmas-Eve*, with the *Gout* in a most miserable manner, which pain'd me so violently in my Legs and one Hand, that I could not help crying and roaring out, the Pain being as if Dogs were gnawing my Flesh, that I had no rest Night nor Day, which held me so till the *Monday* following, and would in all likelihood have so continu'd for Weeks together as it used to do, but that being told of a Drink for Cure of the *Gout*, to be had at Mr. *Marten's*, Surgeon in *Hatton-Garden*, I sent for it, and began to drink of it that Evening as he directed me, and it gave me entire Ease in a very little time, that I slept well that Night, and the next Day I was able to walk about.

about the House, and the Day following abroad, as witness my Hand the 31st of *December*, 1712.

Richard Davis.

On the 26th of *November* last one Mr. John Gore, a Pale-Ale Brewer, at the *Swan-Inn* at *Holbourn-Bridge*, sent me the following Letter.

S I R,

THE Gout seiz'd me on Monday last in my Elbow, with a Swelling and violent Pain, which is something abated now, and is fallen very much into my Hand, which is useless, and I begin to feel a little Pain in one of my Knees to Night; about this time last Year I had a Fit of it, which lasted till March, and I lay a great part of the time in Bed, not having been able to use any of my Limbs, for it was in my Hands, Wrists, Elbows, Knees, and all over me. I have been afflicted with it near 20 Years. If you believe you can relieve me, it will be an Act of Kindness to do it, but if you think you cannot, I desire you'll be plain with me. Sir, I shall be grateful to you, &c.

I went to see him, and provided him the Drink, which he paid me for, and by that time he had drank it four Days or less, all his Pains had left him, and his Joints more pliable, as he told me at my visiting him the second time; tho' a very great Weakness remain'd by the Gouty Humours lying so long and severely on his Joints. Upon his Amendment he wrote and sent me the following Letter.

S I R,

I Think my self oblig'd in Justice to you, and in Charity to the World, to publish your Medicine; I'll draw up a Form of a Certificate as soon as I get out of my

my Bed, and in the beginning, or some Day next Week, will make you a Visit with it.

I am,
Sir,
Your Humble Servant,

JOHN GORE.

But he being weak by the Distemper's lying long on him as aforesaid, and a Person of a very unto-ward habit of Body, and the *Gout* as inveterate and chronick as most known, and never took the Drink for more than four Days, as already said, tho' I advis'd his continuing it longer, which he, to avoid the Charge as he told me since, declin'd, has not yet been with me to perform the latter part of his Letter; but to shew the Opinion he notwithstanding retain'd of the Remedy, he sent me soon after a line or two that he will, with this Addition. *Your Drink seems to be the most rational Method to me of removing the Gout, of anything I have yet used, but it is not to be believed that four Days can eradicate a chronick stubborn Distemper, &c.*

I Mary Hodgson in Wharton's Court, near the end of Grays-Inn-Lane, Certify, That a Servant Maid of mine, one *Hannah Smith*, was so grievously afflicted with the wandring *Gout* or *Rheumatism*, that she could not stir her Limbs or whole Body if she had been to gain the World, but lay as if she was fasten'd to the Bed, and in such violent wracking Pains, as made her cry out, and was also so very much swell'd in her Limbs, Stomach, and up to her Throat, that we could not tell what to do with her; but remembring to have heard of a *Gout-Medicine* which Mr. Marten the Surgeon in Hatton-Garden,

Garden, had done great Cures with, my Daughter sent the Maid's Sister to him, and had it, and by that time she had taken a few Doses of it, she had such wonderful Ease as can scarce be believ'd but by those that saw its Effects, and also could stir and use her Limbs, which she could not, nor had not done for some Days before, as several besides my self that were present, and were Eye and Ear-Witnesses of the same can testifie, as witness my Hand this 31st of *January*, 1712-13.

Mary Hodgson.

THIS is to certify, That I *Gilbert Pincke*, Apothecary in *Leather-lane*, *Holbourn*, have been afflicted with an Hereditary Gout for many Years, my Father dying of it; and being taken with a very violent Fit, that pain'd me in a most terrible manner in my Knees and right Hand, that I could have no Rest or Ease, and hearing of a *Gout-Drink*, noted for giving present Ease, that was prepar'd by Mr. *Marten*, Surgeon in *Hatton-Garden*, I sent my Son a *Sunday* last, the 8th of this Instant, about Noon, for it, and drank of it, and it gave me wonderful and speedy Ease, taking away all my Pains beyond any thing I ever knew or could imagine it possible for any Medicine to do in so short a time, insomuch that I really believe it the best Remedy that can be for that Purpose. for as the *Sunday* before I drank it, I could not suffer the least thing to touch me where the Pains lay, nor so much as close my Fingers to hold any thing between them, they were so swell'd and painful, I can not, tho' this is but *Wednesday*, hold a Pen and write, as witness my Hand this 11th of *February*, 1712-13.

Gilbert Pincke.

I *Pin-*

I *Randal Mynshull, Gent. in Eagle-street, near Red-Lyon-Square*, hereby acknowledge, That being in a most wretched Condition afflicted with the Pains of the *Gout* and *Rheumatism*, as not able to stir or turn my self in my Bed, without all hopes of help; and being told by a Relation of mine of a Drink which one Mr. *Marten* in *Hatton Garden*, Surgeon, made, that would presently remove those wracking Pains, I desir'd him to get it for me on *Monday* last, the 9th Instant, which he then did, and upon drinking it I found such Ease, as I could not expect, considering how bad I was, it soon taking off all my Pains, and which if I had not had that Drink, in all probability the Pains would have kill'd me, they were so very violent, so as no Mortal could scarce bear them, as witness my Hand this 13th of *February*, 1712-13.

Randal Mynshull.

Tho' the foregoing Certificates, at any time, if requir'd, will be made Affidavits, yet are they but a very small part of the Assurances I can produce, and might have added for the Honour of my *Specifick*, as strong and effectual as can be desir'd, had I like other Surgeons, made my Practice General, and not (as I thought it my Interest) confin'd my self almost to one Branch alone; which, and the Censoriousness of the Age, discourag'd them from offering, and me from asking the Liberty; whereby at present no mention is to be made of them; besides, should I have added any more, I might justly fear, that considering the small Bulk of this *Treatise*, the Reader should upbraid me with selling him instead of a *Book*, a *Catalogue of Certificates*.

These Instances of Cures were all collected within a little time before the *First* Edition of this *Treatise*, but since that, the Never-failing Efficacy of
 L this

This Medicine has been confirm'd by a multitude of Experiments ; and I daily receive such undeniable Proofs of Success, in so many different Patients, that without being injurious both to my self and the Publick, I cannot omit taking notice of some of them. The fearful seldom care to venture on new Medicines, and according as People's Habitations and Acquaintance are, they may have different Opportunities of enquiring, some of one, some of another, into the Effects a Medicine has had upon those that took it, which is certainly the surest way to judge by.

One Mr. *Brome* a Lawyer, at *Burton upon Trent* in *Staffordshire*, sent for me on the 3d of *March* last, he then Lodging at a Grocers, at the *Two Sugar-Loafs* without *Temple-Bar*, he being in most wracking Pain with the *Gout* in his Feet and Knees ; I gave him my *Specifick*, which he drank as directed, and it soon took off his Pain, that in a few Days after he was able to ride home.

Major *Skene* in my Lord *Stair's* Regiment, living at the upper-end of *St. James's Street*, sent for me on the 12th of *March* last, he being in tormenting Pain with the *Gout* in his Feet: He drank my *Specifick*, and had speedy Ease, and recover'd his Strength in a few Days.

Colonel *Mackenzie* in *Prince's Court*, by *Story's*, *Westminster*, recommended by the aforesaid Major *Skene*, sent for me on the 11th of *June* last, being in violent Pain with the *Gout* in his Knee and Feet ; he drank it, and had Ease and Strength to the Admiration of himself and Friends that came to visit him, and said he would send for it upon occasion, if at home in *Scotland*, or elsewhere.

Colonel *Torren* in *Spring-Garden*, near *St. James's Park*, recommended also by Major *Skene*, sent for me, being in extreme Pain with the *Gout*, on the

20th of *June* last, and would not believe my Medicine would ease him, but upon drinking it he found that quick Relief and Recovery as made him admire, and promise he would proclaim its wonderful Effects where-ever he came.

Mr. *Hyland*, a Tobacco Merchant, at *St. Margaret's Hill* in *Southmark*, was on the 19th of *April* last taken violent Ill with the *Gout* in his Stomach and Head, after the manner he had been afflicted with it sometime before, by means, as his Lady told me, of an External Medicine he was persuaded to use to his Knee that was in Pain with the *Gout*, and was then reliev'd with Difficulty by Dr. *Ratcliff* and Dr. *Cade*, the latter of whom attended him some Weeks. He had at this time the *Gout* also in his left Hand. Upon his drinking my *Specifick* which I sent him about Noon, he was speedily reliev'd; that when I went to visit him, which I did in the Evening, I found him smoaking his Pipe with some Gentlemen, and perfectly easy in his Stomach and Head; the *Gout* from thence being wholly carry'd off, and was as well, excepting the Weakness in his Hand, as ever.

Judge *Coxe* of *Lincoln's-Inn*, a Member of the last Parliament, sent for me at four a-Clock in the Morning, on *Thursday* the 14th of *May* last, being in grievous Torture with the *Gout* in his Feet; He took my Drink as directed, which speedily took off his Pain, and the *Monday* following upon my visiting him again at his finishing the Medicine, I found him walking about his Chambers perfectly well, only a little weak, yet almost able, as he said, to come and see me.

Capt. *Minizes* in *King-street*, near *Golden-Square*, an elderly Gentleman, having been afflicted with the *Gout* for many Years, and in a violent Fit sent for me on the 11th of *May* last. I found him in Bed scarce able to move Hand or Foot; I furnish'd

him with my *Specifick*, which speedily took off his Pains, and releas'd him from his Fit, that in a few Days he got abroad to Admiration.

Mr. *Thomas Eastwood* at *Chatham*, belonging to the Queen's Business there, took the Drink, having been long afflicted with the *Gout*, to a Cripple, with very great Success, has return'd me many thanks in his Letters for it, and recommends it to every Body he hears afflicted.

Mr. *Pain* at the *Wool-Pack* by *Iron-Gate*, near the *Tower*, was cured by it, of the worst *Rheumatism* in all his Limbs, that was, I believe, ever known to afflict any, both with Pain and Swelling, and this without Bleeding, excepting against my Will, once a very little Blood was taken from him. He was at divers times dilirious, his Pains were so extreme, and in all Probability would have died, but for the Medicine.

Mr. *Serocold* a Drugster, at the *Queen's-Head* in the *Poultry*, has had at times about 40 Gallons of my *Specifick* for his Friends or Customers, and I suppose may be able to give some account of its Success in those that took it.

Also one Mrs. *Weaver* a Milliner in *Wine-street*, *Bristol*, has had at times several Runlets of it for her Friends, and I presume may be able to tell what Effects it had, and on whom.

On the 28th of *June* last, I was sent to for a Runlet of it for one *Robert Broke*, Esq; of *Nackton* near *Ipswich* in *Suffolk*, which he drank, and sent me thereupon an Account of its Effects in the following Letter, dated *July* the 4th, 1713. after he had drank it but four Days. *I return you thanks for the great Benefit that I have receiv'd by your Specifick; it has freed me from all my Pains and Swellings, that my Joints have not been so pliable, nor the Swellings so down these many Years. And after requesting my further Advice as to his drinking it on, &c. says thus.*

thus. Before I began your Drink, my great Toe on my left Foot broke and run abundance of Chalk and Chalky Matter; and has now two great Holes in it, but is yet very easy. It is frequent with me to have Sores to break, as in Fingers, Toes, Heels, and bottoms of my Feet, of which I thought proper to acquaint you, by which means I am a perfect Cripple, so that for many Months together I am not able to go or stand, or help myself any more than a Child new born, nor have not for above this twelve Month past set a step without Crutches or being carried, &c. since that he has wrote in another Letter to me, thus. Your Medicine I do verily believe to be the best in that kind that ever yet was devised. I have found the greatest Benefit by it of any thing I ever took in my Life; and thank God am now freer from the Distemper than I have been these many Years, and do design to take six Gallons of the same once in two, three or four Months in a Year, which I hope will be sufficient to keep me easy, &c. I think (now) I may venture upon your Liniment, which I desire you would send me by the first Opportunity.

Mr. Isaac Dighton, a Brewer in Lewing's Mead at Bristol, took my Specifick Drink, and wrote me in a Letter, dated the 29th of June last, thus. I had a quantity of your Drink for the Gout, some of which I spared to my Friend, who receiv'd very great Benefit by it. The remainder I drank myself according to your Directions. I have been afflicted with the Gout these nine Years, and not been able to walk with Crutches for almost two Years, not so much by Defect in my Knees and Feet, as my Loins, Back, and lower part of my Belly, which seem so stuffed with Humours, that I have not been able to put my Hands below my Knees when sitting. My Back and Loins I find much alter'd for the better since I drank your Drink. I fear there's a large Stone in my Bladder, for I brought away the first Week I drank your Diet-Drink, half a dozen small ones. I humbly pray your Advice and Opinion, &c. My Friend has
made

made use of the Liniment you prescrib'd, with Success also.

Charles Noden, Esq; a Justice in *Quorum*, living at *Woodmansturn*, near *Cashalton* in *Surrey*, had Apprehensions a Fit of the *Gout* was coming and sent for my Drink, but before he receiv'd it his Symptoms went off. He kept it by him till he should have occasion, which happen'd on the 11th of *August* last, when a Fit seiz'd him and pain'd him in his Foot violently, that he could not sleep the first Night: The next Morning he began with it, had almost present Ease, the next Night slept well, and the next Day or Day after was recover'd beyond what (as he express'd) he thought it possible for any Medicine to do.


Mr. Todd an Apothecary in *Newgate-market*, sent for me on the 5th of *March* last, being in violent Pain in his Hands, Elbows, Shoulders, and Feet with the *Gout*, not able to move himself in his Bed, or suffer himself to be touch'd, having been afflicted with that Distemper many Years, and his whole Constitution and Habit perverted by it to a degree almost beyond any I have known, and he also advanc'd in Years, took my Drink, which reliev'd him so, that he recommended it to several, as well Physicians as Patients.

Mr. Dakin, Surgeon in *Salisbury Court*, *Fleet-street*, sent for me on *Sunday* the 15th of *March* last, being grievously afflicted with the *Gout* in his Hand, Knees and Feet, his Legs being all swell'd with the *Gouty Humours*; he drank 12 Bottles only of my *Specifick* in about four Days, in much less time than which the Pain of his Hand was gone, and soon after the Swelling in his Legs abated and went off, and he became lightsome and easy to his great Satisfaction and Wonder.

Mr. Deputy Webb a Drugster, at the *Red-Cross* and *Pheasant*, near *Bow-Church* in *Cheap-side*, sent for me

me on the 11th of *March* last. I found him in Bed afflicted with the *Gout* in several Parts. He took some of my Medicine and was reliev'd, tho' he follow'd it not as I directed him, either as to Quantity or Time, as he acknowledg'd to a Friend of mine he spoke of it to.

Mr. *Barrett*, the ingenious Organist of *St. Mary-Hill-Church*, &c. living in *King-street*, *Covent-Garden*, a Person as grievously afflicted with the *Gout*, tho' a young Man, as most People I believe known, having scarce been able for many Years to walk, at least with any tollerable Pleasure, sent for me the beginning of *April* last, being in violent Pain. He drank the Drink and had Ease, and was recover'd, and has since once or twice experienc'd the same upon a Fit's approach, which as he now takes the Medicine in time, never troubles him to any thing like a Fit.

But to recite the particular Cases of every one that has found the good Effects of my Medicine, but since the *First* Edition of this *Treatise* was Publish'd, would swell this *Second* to thrice the Bulk intended, therefore I shall only relate some of the Names of those that have taken it, and leave every one to be inform'd of the Persons themselves as to the Success, whether it has not answer'd, at leastwise so far as I have affirm'd it may be depended upon, in Page 63 aforegoing, noted in the Margin with a 

Mr. *Francis Smith*, a Lawyer at *Uckfield* in *Suffex*.

Mr. *John Facer*, living at *Rumford* in *Essex*.

Mr. *James Fane* of *Rochford* in *Essex*, afflicted with the *Gout* for about 30 Years.

Mr. *Russell*, at *St. Edmond's-Bury* in *Suffolk*.

Mr. *William Blake*, a Purser of a Ship, lodging at the *Flaming-Sword* in *Tower-street*, near *Barking-Church*.

Mr.

Mr. ——— a Lawyer, that lodg'd at Mr. *Seagers*, a Sail-maker near *Elephant-stairs* at *Rotherhithe*, was cured of a very violent Fit of the *Gout* in four Days, as the said Mr. *Seager* can tell, who fetch'd the Drink for him.

The Reverend Mr. *Spratt*, at the Deanery at *Westminster*.

Capt. *Rich. Corbet*, at *Soulton* near *Wem* in *Shropshire*.

The Reverend Mr. *Millechamp*, at *Great Marlow* in *Buckinghamshire*.

Mr. *George Stow*, a Merchant at *Berwick*, lodg'd when in Town, at the *Bible* in *Scalding-Alley* near *Stocks-market*.

Sir *Brian Broughton*, at *Broughton* in *Staffordshire*.

Sir *Samuel Daniel*, near *Red-Lyon-Square*, recommended by Mr. *John Noden*, whose Certificate is herein inserted.

Mr. *Bracebridge*, at *Warwick*.

Capt. *Alex. Gordon*, at *Piccadilly*, Major *Skene's* Friend, and recommended by him.

Mr. *Phillips*, a Cyder Man, near the Market in *Spittlefields*.

The Reverend Mr. *Lynton*, Rector of *Great Shefford* in *Berks*.

The Reverend Mr. *A. Wharton*, Minister of ——— in *Surrey*; for his Friend.

Mr. *Edward Chute*, near *Basingstoke* in *Hampshire*.

Mr. *Davis*, a Brewer in *Great Queen-street*, near *Drury-lane*.

Mr. *Rich. Connopp*, of *West-Lavington* in *Wiltshire*.

I could enumerate many more, but if these should not be sufficient or satisfactory to any, I doubt it is only to such as have no mind to be satisfied at all; and as none are so blind as those that will not see, so none are more difficult of Belief than those who are resolv'd not to be convinc'd; but as I have already touch'd upon these Unbelievers

vers in the *Preface*, and design to speak another Word to them in the *Conclusion*, referring the Reader to both, I shall end this Chapter.

C H A P. IX.

Reasons *à Posteriori*.

THERE are abundance of People, who, not being vers'd in Medical Matters, tho' otherwise Persons of very good Sense, entertain that mistaken Notion, that no Body ought to meddle with the Administration of Physick, but such as thoroughly understand the Causes of Distempers; that can trace the Medicines through every part of the Body they pass; and rationally account for every step of the Operation that is seen or expected from them.

To confute so gross an Error, before I came to the Causes of the *Gout*, I thought fit to set forth the Insignificancy of Conjectures, by demonstrating the Vanity of *Hypotheses* in Physick. But tho' I am so much an Enemy to fruitless Speculation *à Priori*, yet when I see a Medicine constantly perform a Cure, and its Efficacy is confirm'd to me by several scores of Proofs, as I am a rational Creature, I would not refuse to enquire into the Essence of the Distemper, and look out for Reasons *à Posteriori*, after what manner it is probable, that such a Medicine Cures such a Distemper.

In order to this, as I hate Reasoning in the Air, I shall confine my self as much as is possible within the Limits of our Senses, and advance nothing touching the Causes of the *Gout*, but what shall be built upon Observations, and chiefly of *Anatomy*; nor make any Conclusions concerning the manner

of Operation of my *Specifick*, but what shall be drawn from the Effects I have seen of it.

It is generally agreed among the Moderns, that throughout our Bodies, all the Membranes that cover the Muscles, every where are full of small *Glandules*, thro' which ouzes a Mucilaginous Moisture: And because it is necessary that the Reader, to understand what I have to say concerning the immediate Cause of the *Gout*, should have some Knowledge of these little Vessels, and the Glutinous Liquor they contain, I shall acquaint him with what has been observ'd concerning both, by several Anatomists, and chiefly Dr. *Havers*, whom I mention'd before, when I spoke of the *Synovia*, which is another Name likewise given to this Mucilage.

The curious *Malpighi* has found out, that some Tunicles are wholly *Glandulous*, as the Membrane or *Capsula* of the Heart, the *Peritoneum*, the *Pleura*, and the *Tunica Vaginalis* of the *Testes*. After him, others have discover'd to us, that there were *Glandules* in the Joints themselves, and here they are of two sorts; some are small and numerous, which are set thick all over the Membrane that immediately covers the Articulation, excepting where there are any large *Glands*, and are all of an equal Magnitude, so as to render it every where *Glandulous*. But in some Parts of the Membrane, and in the *Sinuses* of the Bones in the Joints, these *Glandules* are so conglomerated, as to form remarkable *Glands*. In some of the large Joints, there is only one, as in the *Acetabulum* of the Thigh-bone, which is a very considerable one; in some, as in the Knee, there are four or five. They are soft and pappy, but not tender and friable, like the *Glandulous* Substance of the Liver, and some other *Glands* of the Body, so that they are not easily broken by a Compression, against which Injury, it was necessary, in their Nature, to fortify and secure

cure them, because they are seated among such Parts as are obdurate, and press upon them in their Motion, tho' it be so lightly as not to compress them. They are, as I said before, Conglomerate, tho' they do not consist of several *Lobules* or Bags of lesser *Glandules*, as some other *Glands* do, but of several Membranes superstrated over one another, set thick with small round Bladders, which not only lie Contiguous, but tenaciously adhere to one another, as the several Membranes likewise do. By the Pores of these little Bladders, the Mucilaginous Liquor is percolated and distinguish'd from the rest of the Mass of Blood, which is convey'd to them by the *Arteries*, and from them it flows into the Interstices of the Joints, by the excretory Passages, which all these *Glands* have. The Figure of the Mucilaginous *Glands* is various, and accommodated to the *Sinus* or Cavity in which they are seated. Some are not only long, but broad at their *Basis*, and grow narrow towards the Top, so as to terminate in an Edge; some have a broad *Basis*, and rise into a sort of a Cone; some are like little Ridges; some like a *Fimbria*, or Fringe like appearance; some are broad and pretty flat.

Thus much for the *Glands*: The Liquor separated by them is a Mucilage, which is almost like the White of an Egg, tho' it is not always so clear and limpid. It is evidently Saltish to the Taste, and consists of Aqueous, Saline, and Gummous, or such Terrestrial Parts, as have no Rugosities, or Unequalities, nor hamous Extremities, so that they are apt to slip upon one another, but withal they have so much of an immediate Contiguity as makes them in some degree adhere, which gives them something of a Viscosity or Mucilaginous Quality.

This Mucilage is mix'd with an oily Substance, viz. the Marrow, which thro' the Pores of the

Bones is likewise deposited in the Joints, as is demonstrated at large by Dr. *Havers*, from whose *Osteologia Nova*, these Observations are collected. The principal Use of this Mixture is to lubricate the Extremities of the Bones, where they are articulated, that every thing about the Joints may be slippery, that the Animal may move and manage those Parts, as there shall be occasion, with the greatest Facility: For tho' the Ends of these Bones, which are articulated, are very smooth, yet if they were dry, they would not with that ease and readiness obey the commands of those Muscles which move them; and certainly there is no Liquor, nor any Mixture can be thought of more proper for this End, than this is, where, not only both the Ingredients are of a lubricating Nature; but there is this Advantage from the Composition, that they do mutually improve one another; for the Mucilage adds to the Lubricity of the Oil, and the Oil preserves the Mucilage from Inspissation and contracting a fizy Consistence. *Secondly*, The Mucilage in Conjunction with the Medullary Oil, preserves the ends of the Bones which are articulated, from an Incallescence, or contracting an inordinate Heat by their Motions, which would otherwise be the effect of them, especially when they are very quick and violent, and long continued. It is impossible that two Bodies, so solid as the Bones in some Parts are, and the Extremities of those which are articulated, would be without the Benefit of such a Matter, as both mollifies 'em, and intervenes so as to keep them from an immediate Contact, should be violently moved and rubb'd one against another without creating a great Heat. This every *Coachman*, every *Carman* is sensible of, and therefore they have their Oil and Mucilage, a Composition, in which they imitate this of Nature; this is a Mixture of Grease and Tar, with which they

they besmear the inside of the Naves of their Wheels, and the Extremities of the *Axis* upon which they move; without the Benefit of which, the swift Rotation of one about the other, produces a Heat, and that sometimes so intense as to set them on Fire.

Thirdly, This Composition prevents the Attrition of the Bones, that is, their wearing by rubbing one upon another; for without it, two Bodies of the Nature which Bones are of, being frequently, and as some of them often are violently moved one upon another, must inevitably be mutually injurious, and some of the Parts must be worn off on both sides; notwithstanding the Exactness with which in every Articulation, one Bone is adapted to another.

The Usefulness of this Balsamick Moisture in the Joints, is likewise extended to the Ligaments, which it preserves from Driness and Rigidity; it keeps 'em pliable, and ready to conform to all the Motions and Postures of that moveable Part to which they appertain: Nor is it improbable that they are also serviceable to them for the same end as Oil is to Fiddle-strings, which the Musicians make use of to preserve them from that Aptitude to break, which otherwise they will have when they are much extended; for it seems to be after the same manner that these Ligaments are oil'd and moisten'd with this Mixture of Mucilage and Medullary Oil, to secure them from a Disruption, which as strong as they appear to be, they would, if they were dry, be in danger of, upon a great and sudden Stretch or Contortion.

From what has been said, may be justly inferr'd, that the Mucilage of the *Glandules*, in the common Membrane of the Muscles and other Parts of the Body mix'd with the Fat, seperated every where from the adipose *Glands*, must have very near the
same

same effect of oiling and facilitating the Motions of the Muscles, Tendons, &c. which the same Mucilage mix'd with Marrow, has of lubricating the Bones and Ligaments in the Joints; as also, that whilst this Mixture of Mucilage and Oil continues in its natural State throughout the Body, all the Motions of Muscles and Joints may be perform'd with readiness and ease.

When the Reader shall have ruminated upon what he has read hitherto, it will not be difficult to dive into the immediate Cause of *Gouts* and *Rheumatisms*, as soon as any Heterogeneous Matter can be capable of perverting that Balsamick and lubricating Composition we have so often mention'd. As to the first internal Cause, which all Physicians have been so solicitous about, I shall say nothing of my own Head. In the *First* Place I am not of Opinion that the Knowledge of first Causes in general, is so necessary to the Cure of Distempers as some imagine; if Filth be thrown at my Door, it is very hard I should not be able to remove it, without knowing what brought it there. In the *Second*, I am so convinc'd of the Shallowness of human Understanding, that I can never reflect on the almost infinite Divisibility of Matter, or think how vastly remote some minute Particles that help to compose the Fluids in our Bodies, lie hid from the most penetrating of our Senses, tho' arm'd with all the Helps that human Industry has been able to invent, without pitying the Arrogance of those that with certainty pretend to determine any thing about their Contexture.

As to Conjectures, what seems the least improbable to me, is that of Dr. *Havers*; he is of Opinion that the Humours whence *Gouts* and *Rheumatisms* first proceed, are a Morbifick Matter first contain'd in the Mass of Blood, and from thence by way of *Crisis*, thrown upon the Mucilaginous Glands.

This

This he endeavours to prove from the *Febricula* or Feverish Indisposition that precedes the *Paroxisms*, which shews (says he) that Nature is then disturb'd and making an attack upon the hostile matter. He further urges, that if the Morbifick Matter upon this Fermentation happens to be determin'd to, and thrown upon the *Glandules* of the more noble Parts, ill Consequences, if not fatal ones, will follow, such as an *Apoplexy*, a *Phthisis*, an *Asthma*, or the like. As also that the *Gout* never proves Mortal, but when the Matter is translated and fixed upon some noble Part; or Nature is tir'd, and so languid, that she cannot rise up against her Enemy with so much Vigour as to drive it to the extreme Parts.

I shall add one Argument more, by which the Author I quote strives to confirm his *System*, and refer the Reader to him for the rest. From this Supposition, says he, speaking of the *Gout* in particular, that the Morbifick Humour is separated by the Mucilaginous *Glands* of the Joints, and the Tendons which lie near them, we may easily satisfy our selves, why the *Gout* does invade those Parts which we find to be obnoxious to it. As for the *Sciatica* or *Hip-Gout*, I have taken notice, that the Mucilaginous *Gland* of the *Acetabulum* of the *Coxendix*, is one of the largest of the sort in the whole Body, so that it is no wonder that the Humour is excerned, and thrown into the Cavity by it, and excites such Symptoms as we find there. In the Hands are not only considerable *Glands* in all the Joints, but the Tendons which are there inserted, especially those of the *Musculi perforantes*, have their Mucilaginous *Glands*, so that Nature has a Convenience in these Parts, to depurate the Mass of Blood, and they must receive the Morbifick Matter, when the Blood in its Circulation obtrudes it upon them, and the *Glands* are dispos'd to separate it. The
same

same thing I might observe of the Shoulders, and of the Knees: But of all the Parts, none are so frequently afflicted with this Disease as the Feet; and it is plain why they are so, for besides that they have many Mucilaginous *Glands* in their Joints, and others about the Tendons, which are inserted into their Bones, as the great Chord or Tendon of the Muscles which extend the Foot, and those of the *Perforantes*, I say besides this, they are the inferior and pendulous Parts, so that as their *Glands* make them capable of entertaining, so their Situation does conspire with the Effort of Nature to bring down the Morbifick Matter into them.

Tho' these Observations may render the Author's *Hypothesis* very plausible, I am far from agreeing to several of the Conjectures he raises from them. But let others who can Cure the *Gout* at once, so that it never shall return, employ themselves in finding out the first Causes of it *à Posteriori*. I who only pretend to free Mortals from Pain, and either remove the *Paroxysm* when it is already begun, or prevent its coming at the time that Nature is labouring to produce it, shall humbly content my self, with having sufficiently detected the nearer and immediately efficient Cause of the *Gout*; and of this I shall endeavour to give as rational Account, as is possible, of things that cannot be expos'd to our Senses.

Not to dispute then, whether the Peccant Matter that is thrown upon the Joints, be a *Vapour*, as one would judge from the Cure by the *Moxa*; or a *Humour*, which is a Vapour condensed; or, if a *Humour*, whether it be a *Vitriolick Acid*, as is still the Opinion of most Physicians, or the very contrary to that, *viz.* a *Caustick Alkali*, as Colbatch will have it; or lastly, that the noxious Quality of it, consists in something else which we don't know, and perhaps have no Name for, as is most probable;

ble ; which of them soever it be, it matters not, as it is capable of coagulating, or but incrassating the Mucilage that lubricates the Joints, and pervert it from its Balsamick Nature and incomparable Smoothness, it is impossible if we reflect first on the Sensibility, and secondly on the close Contiguity of those Parts, but it must at once create Pain, and obstruct the Motion of the Joint which it invades. If the Grease that is used about the Wheels of *Carts* and *Coaches*, of which I spoke before, was to be inspissated, and only part of it turn'd into a gritty or chalky Substance, the Wheels would go round very heavily at first, and at last not at all ; and if by superiour Force, this Obstruction was overcome, and the Wheels were turn'd round by main Strength, the Consequence would be, that the *Navès* of them, as well as the *Axis*, would be every where scratch'd, and in many Places grated and cut.

It is manifest from Anatomy, that the Membranes in which the Mucilaginous *Glands* are contain'd, are so admirably contriv'd about the Joints, that upon every Movement of the Joint, the *Glandules* receive a gentle Pressure, by which a Portion of the Mucilage is squeez'd out ; from hence it follows, that the more Motion we make, the more of the Mucilage that facilitates it, is likewise produced. But it is likewise manifest, that as the greatest part of this Mucilage is generated by the Motion of the Joint, which squeezes it out of the *Glandules*, so by the same Motion and the Heat of it, it is first dispers'd and wore, and at last evaporated and destroy'd. Therefore *Carts* and *Coaches* which have no such Supply from Nature, the more they are used, the sooner they want Greasing ; a plain Demonstration, that the Grease in Wheels, and the Mucilage in the Joints are both consum'd by Motion.

From the abovesaid Premisses, we may safely conclude, that as long as the Mucilage continues in its natural Balsamick State and due Consistence, it can never be wanting or superabound. But in a morbid State, when by the Peccant Matter, the Mucilage is rendred thick and sharp, and will not suffer the Joint to be stir'd, it is very reasonable to think, that in tract of time, where there is no Motion to disperse and wear out the Mucilage, greater Quantities of it must be made than the affected Joint can contain: For tho' as I have said before, the Production of the greatest part of the Mucilage, be owing to the Movement of the Joint; yet it is not to be conceiv'd, that tho' the Motion ceases, the Secretion from the *Glands*, should likewise totally cease.

From what has been said, it evidently appears, which way the *Tophi* are bred in the severe and more lasting Fits of the *Gout*; for it is next to Demonstration, that where the *Coagulum* is great, and the Joint has been long depriv'd of Motion, the indurated Mucilage must by a constant Protrusion, from what the *Glands* continually, tho' in small Quantities emit, be forc'd thro' *Ligaments*, *Tendons*, *Skin*, and every thing that can less resist it than *Bone*: And by this *System*, which is more built upon *Reason* and *Experience*, than *Conjecture*, there is no great Difficulty to solve, not only all the Symptoms of the *Gout*, but likewise the manner after which the Fits are safely remov'd by my *Specifick*. For if there can be a Medicine, (which I am sure is not to be disprov'd) that is wholly inoffensive to the Body, and only opposite or destructive to the Morbifick Matter that is the first internal Cause of the *Gout*, it is easy to conceive how part of such a Medicine, especially if it be a Liquid that is copiously drank, may reach the utmost recesses of the Body; neither is it difficult to imagine, that having mixt it self with

with the offending Humour, (whatsoever that be) it should carry off some of those noxious Particles, and being continu'd for several Days, by little and little, rid the distemper'd Mucilage of the Morbifick Matter.

Having prov'd that there may be a Medicine to remove the noxious Particles that bring on and compose the *Paroxysm*, I shall now demonstrate, that the *Specifick* I use, is such a one; which can not be done but by arguing *à Posteriori*, from the constant Effects it has in carrying off the Peccant Matter wheresoever it is lodg'd: For whether it is cast upon the Mucilaginous *Glands* of the common Membrane of the Muscles, or the same *Glands* in any of the Joints; that is, whether it produces a *Rheumatism* or a *Gout*; the Medicine infallibly takes off the Pain in either; and when by preposterous Remedies, or the Imbecillity of Nature, not being able to fling the hostile Particles off farther, they are thrown upon the Stomach, Bowels, &c. it brings the same Relief to the Part affected, as may be seen in a Case Page 75 aforegoing. Nay it is of the same Efficacy in the Blood, when the *Heterogeneous* Particles are yet mixt with the whole Mass; to prove this, let any one that has had the *Gout* before, when by the usual Symptoms, as the encrease of Appetite, Indigestion, Wind, &c. he receives warning of its Approach, before yet the Morbifick Matter is thrown upon the Extremities, or other Parts where they create Pain; let such a one I say, take a due quantity of the *Liquor*, and he'll certainly escape the Fit, which otherwise would have come upon him, as numbers already have experienc'd: And that it operates by expelling the Matter, is beyond Controversy; for if it was only lock'd up, and still some where detain'd within the Body, it would in a little time manifest it self by those Symptoms which constantly appear when the

Gout is repell'd by external Applications, the Use of *Opiates*, and other preposterous Methods.

I doubt not but it will be objected, that as it is the Opinion of Physicians in general, that what causes the *Gout* in one Person, is quite different from what causes it in another, it is impossible that one and the same Remedy should remove two contrary Causes. I have such a difference for Men of Letters, that I should never dare to contradict this *Hypothesis* by arguing *à priori*; but when I see the same Medicine have the good effect upon all Persons, of all Constitutions, let the Cause be what it will, I think I have abundance of Reason *à Posteriori*, to conclude that this *Hypothesis* is false. Dr: *Havers* says, that the Humours which cause *Gouts* and *Rheumatisms* are of three sorts. ‘ Sometimes (says he) the Cause is Acrinous and more Subtile, and of such a Nature, that tho’ it procures an acute Pain, and is almost intollerable to the sensible Fibres, yet it does not coagulate, nor inspissate the Mucilage. Sometimes the Matter is Saline, where, tho’ the fixt Salt may a little inspissate the Mucilaginous Liquor, yet it does not give it such a Consistence as makes it certainly and pertinaciously fix. But then *Thirdly*, it is sometimes, and most commonly an *Acid*: In which Case, tho’ the Matter whilst it is in the Mass of Blood, be not thick and glutinous, yet when it comes to be separated from the Sanguineous Mass, and to be mixt with the Mucilage in those Parts, it coagulates, and makes it a sort of a Jelly.

I shall always reckon my self infinitely oblig’d to Physicians, for every *Observation* they furnish me with, but I won’t so much as thank them, for a thousand of their *Conjectures*. Most People that have Money, in every Distemper, the *Gout* not excepted, send for a Physician: And if in the Disease

I named,

I named, they find by Chance any relief, or the Fit, by some Accident or other, goes off sooner than ordinary, the Success is presently ascrib'd to the Method that has been taken; but if the same Method be used in vain to another Patient, the Physician, (who hit or miss is to give a plausible reason for what he does) judiciously concludes, that the Cause of the *Gout* in the first Patient, differ'd very much from that which caused it in the latter; because otherwise the Success would have been the same. I confess the Conclusion is very just; but if the Difference of Causes was always to be multiplied where there is the same Reason, I appeal to every candid Physician who has treated many Patients in the *Gout*, whether an ordinary Capacity might not with moderate Labour, raise the Number of Causes with abundance of Justice, from three, to three and twenty.

But to shew that this is not an injurious Calumny thrown on the venerable Body of so many Learned Men, I shall conclude this Chapter, with an Instance that shall illustrate what I have said, and which has been hinted at already in a Quotation from *Sydenham*.

Fifty years ago it was the receiv'd Opinion of the Schools, that the Peccant Humour that produced *Tertian Agues*, was the Bile or Gall, and that the *Atra Bilis* or Melancholy, was the only Cause of *Quartans*, yet no Body knew how to cure either of them with any certainty. They had their distinct Purges for every Humour, and whosoever would at that time have administred in a *Quartan*, what had cured a *Tertian*, would have been counted a silly Fellow: But as soon as the *Bark* was found to be a *Specifick*, that well administred, cured promiscuously all intermitting Fevers, it was plain, that the different Humours causing (as they thought) the difference of the Types and Periods
of

of *Agues*, were lodg'd no where but in the speculative Brains of their wise Inventors.

CH A P. X.

The Conclusion.

AS there is no doubt but that every Fit of the *Gout* is produced from the critical Exclusion of Morbifick Particles from the Mass of Blood, and their Separation by the Mucilaginous Glands, so we may easily apprehend how the *Paroxysms* of it may be, as they are commonly esteem'd a Preservation of the Patient's Life, and a Security against violent *Fevers*, and any other more fatal Distempers, as they depurate the Mass from those Fæculencies, which if Nature had not this ready and easy way to cast them out of the Sanguineous Mass, would produce such a Disorder, and excite such a violent Fermentation as makes a *Fever*.

If we reflect on the kind Design, and the real Benefit that accrues from this wholesome Severity of Nature, nothing will appear to us more visibly pernicious and destructive to Health, than such Medicines, that by hindring the *Crisis*, keep the noxious Matter mixt with the Mass of Blood, and lock up the Enemy within the very Seat of Life; as has been often experienc'd to the Destruction of many. It is this Consideration, together with the infinite Dissentions and fluctuating Uncertainties of Physicians in this Distemper, both as to the Causes and the Method of curing it, which have all along deterred so many Men of Sense from the Use of all Medicines whatever in this cruel Distemper, and made the wisest conclude with the Victorious *Charles the Fifth*, who was likewise conquer'd by it,

it, that the best Medicines for the *Gout*, were to WEEP and to SUFFER.

I cannot blame Men for being cautious, but yet I would have them use their Reason, and believe their Eyes. Where was there ever a Medicine that like mine in so short a time has given relief to so many? The greatest part of those that have taken it, live either in or near this great City: The Truth must be soon discover'd, if Men will but give themselves the trouble of enquiring. The Medicine I administer does never prevent, but visibly forwards the Salubrious *Crisis*, and far from stopping up the offending Particles promotes, their Separation from the Mass of Blood, and brings about their Expulsion after a more safe, a more easy, and more expeditious way, than unassisted Nature is able to perform it.

That the *Gout* often prevents fatal Distempers in those that are subject to it, is not because it pains; but because the Blood of those People has an aptitude of separating from its Mass, the noxious Particles that enter it: Then who would not to compass the same ends, prefer a harmless Medicine to a tormenting Disease? Besides that, whatever some People may imagine, the *Gout* does not preserve the Patient with half the certainty, whilst his Youth and Vigour remain, that it kills him with when his Strength is gone. But suppose the *Gout* could prolong Life equally as well as the Medicine, are not Ease and a sound Body, to be had on the same Terms, preferable to Misery and decrepid Limbs?

But I ought not to expect that the Multitude of Cures perform'd on others, should remove the Prejudice of some People, when I have seen those themselves that used the Medicine frighten'd at what ought to have encourag'd them the most, *viz. the sudden and surprizing Ease they receiv'd upon the taking*

king of it. A Gentleman who has been named in the Eighth Chapter, found the greatest Ease by it from the most tormenting Pain possible, in an hours time after he began to drink it; and telling his Friends that came to visit him, with a great deal of Pleasure, the relief he had found. They replied, it might be so, but what would be the Sequel? Which put the Gentleman in so great a fright, that he almost wish'd for his Pain again, and sent for me in haste to be satisfied.

Nothing is a greater Enemy to Sleep than Pain, which when it is exquisite, will, as many know too well to their Sorrow, keep People awake for several Nights and Days together, and as the Effect always ceases as soon as the Cause is remov'd, so it is not difficult to conceive how a long-wish'd-for Ease, as soon as the Medicine begins to soften and dilute the rigid and excruciating Particles in the Joints, must cast the Patients into sweet Sleeps; which Torments and Tossings had till then prevented. This great Benefit has likewise been construed to the Disadvantage of the *Specifick*, and it has been suggested, that because it procures Rest, it must needs be an *Opiate*; tho' I declare solemnly, as I shall always be ready to make Oath, not only that no *Opium*, but likewise nothing made of *Papaver*, nor any other *Narcotick* whatever, directly or indirectly enters the Composition of it. But this Proffer, and all Apologies would be superfluous, if Men would use their Reason, and compare the Effects of *Opium* to those of my *Specifick*. *Opium*, which benumbs the Senses, keeps off the Pains no longer than the stupifying Quality of it lasts, but when that is wore off, they return with greater Violence, and the *Gouty* Matter after the Use of it, is more pertinaciously fix'd than before. The Medicine on the contrary gives no Ease but what is hourly increas'd, till the offending Particles
that

that made the Fit, are totally conquer'd and expell'd.

Those that pretend duely to take this Medicine, are oblig'd to consume 12 Quarts of it in four Days at the furthest, which is a greater quantity of Liquor than the generality of People are used to drink in that time; and as it is known to a Proverb, too vulgar to be repeated, that all Drinkables in general prove Diuretick when copiously drank, so it would be very strange if People whilst they are taking this Medicine, should not void greater quantities of Urine than they do at other times. Yet even this has alarm'd some fearful People, and what is an inestimable Quality in so efficacious a Medicine, its operating by the most innocent and least troublesome of all Evacuations, has hindred several from taking it under the frightful Notion, that if it Cures the *Gout*, it will bring a *Diabetes*. The shortest Answer to this Objection would be, that it has yet never done so in any that have taken it. But whoever examines into what causes a *Diabetes*, and likewise reflects on the Effects of my *Specifick*, shall easily find how groundless those Fears are. As to the *Diabetes*, which chiefly consists in a Dissolution and broken Contexture of the Mass of Blood, *Aretæus* has observ'd of it many Ages ago, that sometimes the Patients made no more Water than ordinary, tho' all the rest of the Symptoms were at the greatest height; from which the Learned Dr. *Lister* has concluded, that the frequent voiding of Urine was no *Pathognomonick* Sign that always appear'd in this Distemper. The Medicine on the other Hand helps to separate, and expels from the Blood by its *Specifick* Virtue all such offensive and heterogeneous Particles as might conduce to the Destruction of its *Crafsis*, and is consequently more like to Prevent or Cure than cause a *Diabetes*. Besides that, how freely soever

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this Drink passes thro' the Body during the taking of it, yet as soon as the Patient leaves off drinking it, the Operation by Urine ceases, (as every Body that has us'd it can testify) and he makes afterwards no more than before he took it.

These are the chief Objections that have been rais'd against the *Specifick*; tho' as People are fanciful they may be multiplied *in infinitum*; one Gentleman who was wonderfully reliev'd by it, complain'd that it affected his Head. Another that it made him a little sickish. And a third, that it gave him the Heart-burn: Which are all the ill Consequences I ever heard from it; tho' each of these Complaints soon ceas'd as the Patients went on with the drinking of the Liquor, and not one of them has been made by two different Persons; which shews, that considering the different Constitutions of Bodies, and the various Humours that may prevail in them, those chance Complaints ought not to be laid to the Medicines Charge. Besides, one would think that Men in Pain should overlook those Trifles, and count such small Inconveniencies, were they really to come upon them, of little Moment, in comparison to the excruciating Torments from which the *Specifick* is to deliver them. But Prejudices in some People are unconquerable tho' they suffer by them. How often do we hear that this or that great Man so useful in his Station, as not to be spar'd the time of the *Gouts* Imprisonment, has been severely laid up by it for Months together? I confess that I have often fretted to hear such necessary Men should upon such trifling Grounds, refuse to have Ease, which in so little a Space of time I could procure them, with more Safety and Advantage to their Health and Limbs, than wait the Leisure of unassisted Nature; and I cannot without the utmost concern reflect on the Loss that may yet be sustain'd, (perhaps

haps by the whole Nation) from that mistaken Notion, *that in the Gout, no Ease is to be purchas'd but at the Hazard of Health*: For how great a Benefit of Nature soever the *Gout* may be deem'd to be, it is certain, that at the best, one Days Pain weakens and hurts the *Ligaments* and *Nerves* of the Joints, and wears out the Body's Strength more, than six Days ease will recover. Persons of the highest Quality, I know are seldom of the first that make Trials of this Nature; and so it is no wonder I have yet none of their Testimonies; but as there is no reason but the Medicine will have the same Effects upon them as upon others, I make no doubt, when they come to be convinc'd of its universal Success, but they will esteem it a Service to themselves, as I shall an Honour to me, to make use of it, and likewise for publick Good, proclaim it; and so well am I assur'd of the Safety and Certainty of the Remedy, that I dare pawn my Life if one in a thousand be disappointed by it; and when thro' Prejudices, and Objections, it shall have pav'd its own way, and come to be universally known, I shall have no occasion to say any more of the *Specifick*, or the *Gout* either, according to the old *Latin* Proverb, *Ubi rerum Testimonia adsunt non opus est verbis*. Where Matter of Fact speaks there is no need of Words. This puts me in mind of the Story of our famous Sir Robert Talbor, with which I'll dismiss the Reader. Talbor, who was Servant to an Apothecary in Cambridge, having learned the Use of the *Jesuits Bark* came up to London, where not finding sufficient Encouragement, and his Authority not being great enough to give Credit to the Remedy, he travels into Kent, and there from Town to Town Cures all sorts of *Agues*, by which having got Money, and Assurance of the Efficacy of the Remedy, he returns to London, and sets up by the Name of Dr. Talbor. At first he was loaded

with the infamous Name of *Quack*, but so great was his Success, that he seldom fail'd of Curing all he undertook. At length he was sent for to *Court*, gave his Medicine to King *Charles II.* and was by him Knighted. He liv'd as great as any Man, kept open House, and Eat in gilt Plate; yet to do him right, he was easie enough to Poor or ordinary People, but the Rich he made to pay for it; and had he been so cunning as to have conceal'd his Medicine, he might have had an Estate almost equal to a *Prince*: But it coming to the Knowledge of our Physicians, and they falling into the Use of it, put some Check to his extraordinary Business; whereupon he goes to *France*, where *Agues* were then *Epidemick*, and having likewise cured abundance of People there, he was at last sent for to Persons of the highest Rank, and had equal Success, Curing (as Mr. *Peter* the Surgeon tells us in his Account of the *Jesuits Bark*, from whence I took part of this Story) the *Prince of Conde* and others of the Blood Royal of *France*, and was largely rewarded, having a thousand Pistols given him for one Cure; insomuch that the *King* himself being likewise seiz'd with an *Ague*, seem'd enclin'd to make use of *Talbor's* Medicine; but that his Physicians pretending a wonderful Care for his *Majesty's* Life, strenuously oppos'd it with all the Rhetorick and Interest they were Masters of. The *King* in the mean time very much tir'd with his shaking Companion, and seeing every Body cured whom *Talbor* undertook, appoints an Interview between his Physicians and the Foreigner, and being resolv'd to know the Reasons why he might not be cured as well as others, orders that the Matter should be discuss'd in his Presence. Accordingly they met, and to begin methodically with the Definition of the Distemper, one of the Physicians, thinking afterwards to come gradually nearer to the Point,

ask'd

ask'd Talbor, *What is an Ague?* Talbor, who knew little of Physick, but was sure of his Medicine, to prevent all future Questions, answer'd very concisely. *An Ague is a Distemper, which I can Cure and you can't.* The Physicians look'd upon one another, the King laugh'd heartily, took Talbor's Medicine, and to the great Mortification of the whole Faculty of Physick, was Cured, as others had been before him; which great Successes, and selling his Medicine to the King of *France* for a great Sum of Money, made him so hated by the *French* Physicians, that the King allow'd him a Guard, a *Swiss* being continually at his Door. He liv'd some Years in *France* very profusely, and at last died there, not without Suspicion of being *Poison'd*.

I don't believe that *Envy* and *Malice* attend less on worthy Performances now than in Talbor's Time: But to leave as little room for *Doubts* and *Detraction* as is possible, I shall conclude with this Notice to the Publick, *That wherever there is a Patient or Patients labouring under the most exquisite Torments of the Gout, if he or they make use of my Specifick, I proffer to sit by, and attend the Operation of the Medicine; so that every Physician, and every Patient that questions the Truth of what I have here asserted, may see it confirm'd in few Hours, or at least have the Pleasure of Laughing at me for a positive Coxcomb that pretends to more than he can perform. And till such Tryal or Tryals are made, it will be ungenerous in any, either to decry or dispise it.*

DIRECTIONS for the drinking the Specifick Drink for the Gout.

1st. **T**Welve Quarts of it, I have generally found sufficient to ease the most vehement Pain, and remove the severest Fit, whether Hereditary or Adventitious; but less than that Quantity, I will not undertake shall make that needful Alteration on the Blood and Humours to do it in all, at leastwise so soon or so effectually, tho' I can't but say it has done it in some.

2^d. A Pint of it is the least Dose to be drank at a time, which must be repeated every Hour, or every two Hours at farthest, and that in the Night as well as Day-time, in case you cannot sleep for Pain, but if you can, you are not to be awak'd to drink it.

3^d. Where the Pain is very exquisite and insupportable, such as can, may drink more than a Pint every Hour, or every two Hours; for the faster it is drank (and it cannot then be drank too fast) the faster it dilutes and leads away the *Gouty* Humours, and consequently the sooner you will have ease and be well, as will be perceiv'd by the Pains gradually lessening as you are drinking it.

4th. In four Days at most the whole 12 Quarts of it must be drank off, and if in three Days, or less, where the Pain is very outrageous, the better, for the Reasons aforesaid; but yet where the Pain is mild, or the Stomach so very weak or squeamish, as that it cannot possibly bear the drinking it so freely, it may be drank slower, and in lesser Draughts, which will ease the Pain, and remove the Fit, as *surely*, tho' not so *quickly* as when it is drank faster.

5th. It

Directions for the drinking

5th. It is to be drank Cold by those that are used to, or can bear the drinking their Liquors Cold ; but those that cannot, may drink it a very little warm'd, especially if the Season should happen to be rigorous, or they should find it to lie cold at the Stomach, which I think can hardly be, it being prepar'd with one third part of Wine.

6th. Whilst you are drinking it, you must drink no other Liquors whatever, nor eat any *Boil'd-Meats* ; or *Fish*, *Herbs*, *Roots*, *Salletting*, or *Fruit* ; nor any *Spoon-Diet*, as *Broth*, *Gruel*, *Milk*, or the like ; but any sort of *Roast-Meats* may be eaten, so they be fresh, and the drier they are roasted the better.

7th. It does not purge, yet keeps the Body soluble, going off chiefly, and pleasantly by Urine, passing in some freely, in others more slowly, yet makes no Alteration in any, as to the procuring Ease either sooner or later, nor fills or cloyes the Stomach or Bowels, to make them any ways uneasy, for the more you drink of it, the more you may.

8th. If it should happen to render the Body more Laxative than is said, and so not go off so freely by Urine, (as I have known it in some, where there has been a mighty heap of crude Humours) the Effects will not be less, nor the Patient the worse ; for were not the Body more or less incumbred with such Humours as are noxious to Nature, needful to be discharg'd, and too viscid and gross to be led away by Urine, no such Operation would be ; because I have observ'd, that when the Quantity of those crude Humours have been so carry'd off by it, its Operation by Stool has ceas'd, and it has afterwards only pass'd away by Urine.

9th. In some it occasions also a gentle Perspiration, in others, an agreeable Sweating, it varying, a little, in its Operation, according as is the Patients Constitution and way of living, yet in all
People

the Specifick Drink.

People it never fails having its due Effect, sooner or later.

10th. It's remarkable, that it gives ease soonest, when the Pain is greatest, which sufficiently shews its Energy and Excellency, that it should appease and subdue those obstinate rebellious Humours, when in the height of their raging Fermentation and Fury, when it is known that all other Evacuators taken in the Fit, as they carry off a great deal of the *Serum* that should dilute the sharp Salts; and help to mitigate the Pain, exasperate instead of easing it, and so much the more, as the Humours are more in Heat and Fluxion.

11th. It is a Medicine acceptable to be taken, not in the least putting any force upon Nature; nor does it obtund or weaken the Appetite, but strengthen it, and by facilitating the Digestions, rather makes you more Hungry; and for corroborating and fortifying the Tone of the Stomach, and defending and freeing that and the noble Parts from all Assaults of the *Gouty* Humours, nothing in Nature can go beyond it. Besides what my Experience tells me of it, the following Virtues, (in the very Words) the whole Faculty of Physick ascribe to the Ingredients that compound it, *viz. That they correct and sweeten the Blood and Juices, strengthen the Stomach, Nerves, and Brain, are friendly to Nature, Cordial, and Health-preserving.*

12th. By that time you have drank it all, you will be well of that Fit, I having seldom known it otherwise in any, but if it should happen, (as it may not be impossible in some Constitutions, where Nature is much debilitated, and the Matter of the Distemper copious, the Blood and Humours very acrid, and superabundant, and the Fit been long) that slight, wandring Touches of Pain, just after the finishing the 12 Quarts of the Drink, should be felt, as if the Humours were not altogether evacuated,

Directions for the drinking

it will be requisite that the like Quantity of it be once, or at most twice more repeated, which then cannot fail of making a thorough discharge, and bringing that Fit to a Period.

13th. When a Patient is so well recover'd of a Fit, as that the Weakness of his Joints is pretty well wore off, and he can walk a little, he must take care not to be too free, lest the Humours falling down upon them again, as they are pendulous Parts, give him fresh Pain, a thing too common to those who are very often, and have been very long afflicted and weaken'd with the *Gout*: Such as it so happens to, must have immediate recourse again to the Drink, which will instantly relieve and secure them from Relapse, which otherwise may prove worse than the Fits they were recover'd of: For as it is the Humours that cause the Pain, and the Pain the Weakness, keep but off them, and you are secur'd from both, and the Joints consequently, even in the oldest *Gouts*, cannot fail of getting Strength.

14th. After the Fit is totally off, there generally remains a Weakness, Stiffness, and it may be also a swelling on the Joints, which will sometimes pit, and be each more or less, as the *Gouty* Humours have lain a longer or shorter time on them, therefore to comfort and strengthen the debilitated Ligaments, &c. of the Joints, I recommend the *Linniment* hereafter prescrib'd, which I have successfully experienc'd, and is the best thing I know, and with which if they be bathed every Night and Morning with a warm Hand, without Fire, and a piece of soft brown Paper, or Linnen Rag applied over, will bring them much sooner to their right Tone and Use, than they could possibly recover without it; for they that have undergone an Assault of the *Gout*, have oftentimes occasion for the Use of some Remedy, that by its Vertue may

the Specifick Drink.

strengthen the Joints and Nervous Parts, whose Tone and native Temperament are injured by the Disease: But I say, it is not to be used till the Patient is perfectly freed from the Fit, for otherwise all Externals are generally bad, and (whatever favourable Opinion any may entertain of them) have for the most part been found, first or last, to do more hurt than good.

15th. Note, The Directions hitherto given, relate only to regular Fits of the *Gout*, as they once, or more times in a Year return, and prove more or less painful, as the Humours are more or less sharp, and do abound; but as there are many People, (taken Notice of in my *Attila*) who have such *Gouty* Habits, as that the whole Substance of their Bodies, is as it were perverted to the Nourishment of the Disease, so as that they are almost continually afflicted with it, either in their Limbs, Joints, Fingers, or Toes, and sometimes in several of 'em at once, which tho' it may give them but little Pain, yet as it occasions a Lameness, Stiffness, Heaviness, Tenderness, or Weakness of the Parts, making them almost, if not altogether useless, they are not to expect its Effects near so suddenly; for the Distemper in such being Chronick and rooted, and so Ill-natur'd and untoward, as to afford but little Truce, perhaps only for the two or three hot Months, and in some scarcely that, they will be oblig'd to keep to the drinking 3, 4, or 5 Pints in a Day, of the Drink, more or less, with the same Restriction as to other Liquors and Food as aforesaid, for a Month, two or three together, longer or shorter, according as is their Case or Constitution, till the whole Habit of the Body is changed, and the *Gouty* Disposition extirpated; for as the Fault in such *Gouts* is in the whole Habit, the Saline Acrimony of the whole must be taken away, or it is doing nothing; and as the Drink is of a soft friendly,

Directions for the drinking

friendly Nature, rectifies and strengthens the Tone of the Blood, sweetens that and the Juices, and inspires them, as it were, with a new and better Ferment, and also by its penetrating into the inmost Recesses of the Body, after a peculiar manner visits the *Glands*, rectifies their *Crasis* and deprav'd Ferment, attenuates their Fæculent Juices, and casts them off by Urine, a good Constitution must in time be thereby establish'd, and the whole Body invigorated; and by the Use, as there shall be occasion, of the *Liniment*, the Joints will be made more pliable, and brought to their right Strength and Use as before, and this much sooner in Young or Middle-ag'd People, where the Distemper has not been long, than in the Old and Infirm, where it has been of many Years standing, and is also complicated, as well as rooted.

16th. This Drink is only prepar'd by my self, no Person besides, in the World, (excepting my Wife) knowing its Composition, and is to be had only at my House, as directed to at the end of the *Preface* of my *Attila*: And as it is a Medicine that will keep, it may be sent to any part in or out of the Kingdom.

17th. The Price is 3 s. 6 d. a quart, ready Money, they paying for Bottles, Runlets, and Porteridge; and of those that require my visiting them, I expect Fees. Into the Country, I generally send it in Runlets, for safety and cheapness of Carriage, and is equally as well for the Medicine as in Bottles, as I have experienc'd, having sent it so into many parts of *England*, *Ireland*, *West-Indies*, &c. but those that have it in Runlets must remember to bottle it off as soon as they draw any of it out, (if they intend to keep it long, as many do to be prepar'd against a Fit comes) because the Air thereby getting into the Runlet, not only palls it, as it does most other Liquors, but will by degrees change and mother it; when if it be bottled off, in clean, dry Bottles, and well

the Specifick Drink.

well Cork'd, so as not to leak, and the Bottles either lain along, in a cool Place, with their Necks downwards, or turn'd Bottoms upward upon a Rack, it will keep for Years together; (and so it will in Runlets, if they are kept brim-full and well bung'd, as I send them, for then no Air can get in) but if the Bottles stand with the Corks upwards, tho' they are ever so well Cork'd, the Corks will in time shrink, and let in the Air, when as the Liquor lies against the Corks, they swell, and keep it out.

18th. You must remember likewise to shake the Bottles or Runlet always before you pour it out to drink it, and not to forget to follow the Use of it, according to these Directions, without your strictly observing which, I will not be answerable for the Success.

The L I N I M E N T.

Take Nerve Ointment, Indian Oil of Earth, and the best Palm Oil, of each 3 Ounces; put them into an Earthen-Pipkin, and set them over a very gentle Fire to melt; when they are melted, put in of the softest and best Gum Elemni, and Bdellium, of each 10 Drams; keeping it still over the same Heat till they are also melted; then strain it (because in the Gums there are many times bits of Flagg and Drofs) and when it is strain'd; add to it of Balm of Gilead, 2 Ounces and a half; of the best Balsam of Peru, 1 Ounce; Chymical Oil of Juniper, and rectified Oil of Amber, of each an Ounce and half; of the finest Camphir broken in bits, half an Ounce; stir them all together over a very gentle Heat, till they are well mixt, and the Camphir is dissolved, and it is done, and is to be used as already directed.

This is a valuable Medicine, if it be rightly prepar'd, and with the choicest Ingredients, if not, it may not be worth a Pin; and that none may be disappointed in it, it may be had of me at the same rate they can make it themselves, or get it made by others.

Med. Hist.

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